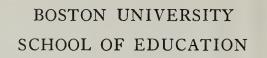
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Service Paper

A SOCIAL HISTORY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
1630-1842

Submitted by

Isobel M. Cheney

B.S.Ed. Salem Teachers' College, 1939

In partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree of

Master of Education

August, 1949

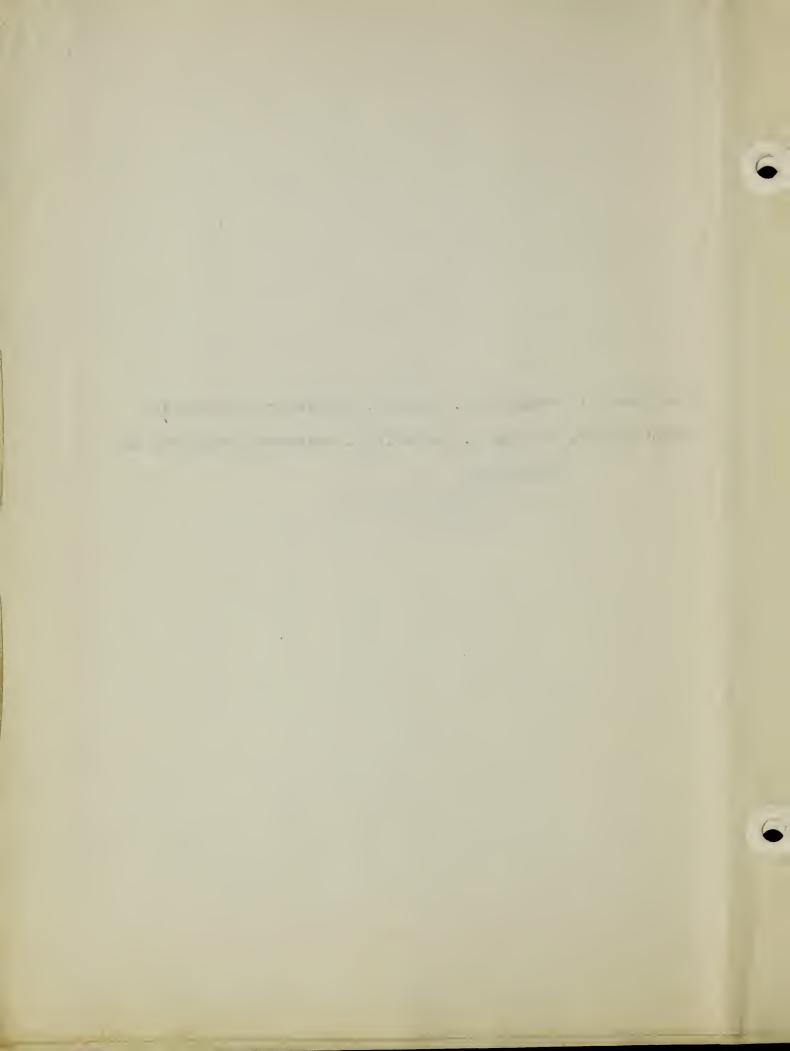
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The Seal of the City of Somerville

The frontispiece shows Norman E. Corwin, Jr. as George Washington in a life-size replica of the Seal of the City of Somerville, Massachusetts, photographed for the Centennial Celebration, January 1942.

The Seal of the City of Somerville is a representation of George Washington, standing on Prospect Hill with a Union Flag unfurled (the design of the flag is that of The Stars and Stripes of 1777; which is an error as it should be that of The Great Union). On the right is a view of portion of Boston with the State House. On the left, a view of a portion of Charlestown with Bunker Hill Monument. Within a circle around the same is the inscription:

"Somerville Founded, 1842, Established a City, 1872

Municipal Freedom Gives National Strength".

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"Somerv'lle Toundee, 1842, Established a City, 1872 inmicipal Freedom lives Untional Strength".





DEDICATED

TO

MY FAMILY

WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The writer is indebted to the following for assistance in preparing this service paper: Josephine Albisetti; Ann Armstrong, Children's Librarian, Boston Public Library; Edna Boutwell, Librarian, Woburn Public Library; Professor William H.

Cartwright; Doris E. Cheney; George E. Connor, Editor, Somerville Journal-Press; Mabel A. Fitz; John D. Kelley, Librarian,

Somerville Public Library; William Preble Jones; Professor

Abraham Krasker; Dorothy Monks; Massachusetts Horticultural

Society; Helen A. Moran; John Nolan; Peter D. Peterson, President,

Somerville Historical Society; Dorothy Cheney Quinan; Wilbur D.

Raymond, Curator, Somerville Historical Society; Professor

Franklin C. Roberts; Edith Rodway; Irene Schell; Alice Tarbox;

Elsie K. Wells, Librarian, West Somerville Branch Library;

Alice A. Wilson; and Robert M. Winn, Old North Church, (Christ Church).

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SOCIAL HISTORY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 1630-1842

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A SOCIAL HISTORY OF SOMERVILLE 1630-1842

FOREWORD

"A people who take no pride in the achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants".

Lord Macauley

Although the teaching of local history is specifically designated in the fourth grade curriculum for the City of Somerville in Massachusetts there has been a growing tendency toward ignorance in matters of historical interest and importance. Some pupils do not know the correct titles for local holidays nor the concept behind the celebration. Others do not know the historical significance of local landmarks, objects within the periphery of their vision but meaningless to them. These same children will grow up in this richly historical environment puzzled at travelers who come half way around the world to visit landmarks they have overlooked.

The teaching of local history is no longer reserved to one grade level, or to one selected teacher. It is true that "good local history is one of the most effective contributions that can be made to social sciences" but the heritage of a community 1. Donald Dean Parker, LOCAL HISTORY HOW TO GATHER IT, WRITE IT AND PUBLISH IT, (New York, 1944), vii.

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should not be isolated by any artificial or arbitrary lines.

Students should be led to see that the saga of Somerville is really the history of Massachusetts; that the story of Somerville is actually a source of the nation's episodes. In like manner world history can be woven from the threads of their own community. World War II has emphasized the need for citizens of the community, the nation, and the world. Such needs must be met by all teachers, regardless of their chosen field, or the grade level they teach.

As the title of this paper connotes, we shall attempt to treat the history of Somerville from the "socialized" viewpoint that the child may have a better understanding of his ancestors through the problems they faced, the way they lived, and the heritage they left. Donald Parker points out that "the history of a nation is incomplete which fails to give an account of the ordinary man and woman, their affairs and interests." For the student who wishes that he could live, if only for a week to see how it looked, and to see Washington and Putnam it is possible for him to see these things, at least vicariously, through the historical landmarks in and about Somerville.

While achieving the true aims and objectives of real democracy we hope to instill in the citizen-to-be a genuine

^{2.} Op.cit. xi

^{3.} John S. Emerson, "Teaching Local History in Public Schools" HISTORICAL LEAVES (Somerville) III, 3 (1904)58

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pride in the home town. A sincere interest in his own community through local history can bring this about. The disregard for public and private property would be a thing of the past if, instead of preaching "steadily about abstract democracy" their teachers could, through hobbies, clubs, and church organizations, inspire a zeal for civic consciousness that would equal the ardor displayed toward athletics. Obviously there is a lag between book learning in school and "social consciousness" outside of school. Wesley who believes that "public education implies a public investment for public good" has suggested practical community service by schools. These are incorporated in the Activities listed at the end of the chapters.

Somerville is rich in historical landmarks, but local pride and patriotism should inspire immediate action if such fine colonial architecture as the Nathaniel Greene Headquarters and the Charles Lee House are to continue to live. The Somerville Historical Society, since its founding in 1897 has done a monumental task in erecting a museum, marking antique ruins, and collecting old mementos. Membership is open to all and at a nominal sum; while admission to the museum, open on holidays, is free to all. The Society, under the able direction of President Peter Peterson is desirous of organizing a Junior Historical 4. "teachers" in this sentence implies all adults: parents,

Sunday-school instructors, "Y" workers, Scoutmasters, etc.

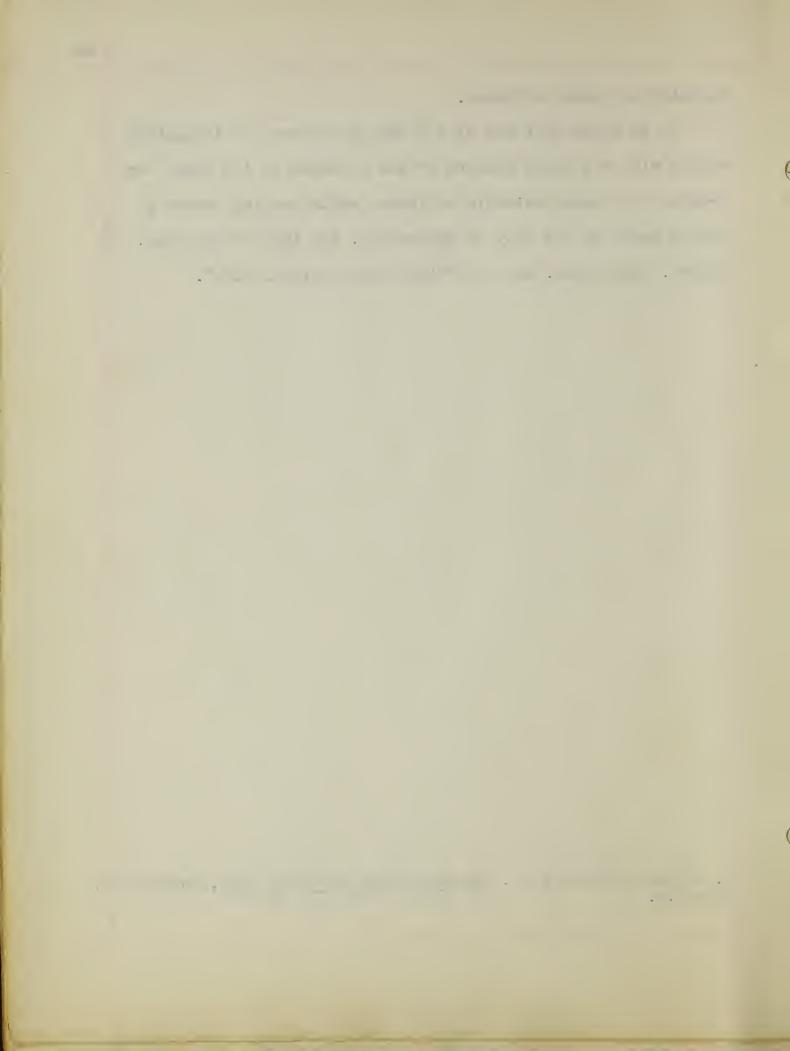
^{5.} Edgar Wesley, TEACHING THE SOCIAL STUDIES, (Boston, 1942)81.

the state of the s The second secon the second secon the state of the s I . Society for school children.

It is hoped that out of a study of the past so intimately allied with the early history of the Colonies in its fight for freedom that more desirable attitudes would develop toward a proper pride in the City of Somerville, the land of Winthrop,

Revere, Washington, and the "first real national flag".

^{6.} Alfred Morton Cutler, THE REAL FIRST NATIONAL FLAG, (Somerville), (1929),5.



A SOCIAL HISTORY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 1630-1842

INTRODUCTION

"New England is wher ould England did stande, l. Newe furnnished, newe fashoned, new woman'd, new man'd"

To properly set the stage for a social history of Somerville in Massachusetts from 1630 to 1842 we must present a prologue or passing review of a decade prior to the Puritan pioneer; the Pilgrim and his "Plimoth Plantation". For it is to the Pilgrim fathers that we credit the foundation of the first permanent settlement in the "northern part of Virginia". It is to the socialled "Separatists" that we give thanks for introducing a national holiday, "Thanksgiving" with his fare of venison, dried berries, and corn.

We need not turn to dry-as-dust, musty accounts for the life of these forerunners of our Puritan people for the "Plimoth Plantation, Incorporated", of Plymouth, Massachusetts has already completed the first thatched hut (near Plymouth Rock) in a planned series of twelve houses, a fort, common store house, and Governor's house. Like Williamsburg, Virginia, activities similar to the times will be enacted, such as Mounting of the Guard, and the Meeting of the Pilgrims with Squanto.

Modern immigrants have crossed a stormy Atlantic in ships

^{1.} Samuel Eliot Morrison, BUILDERS OF THE BAY COLONY (Boston, 1930) 63

. THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE smaller even than the "MAYFLOWER" of 1620. The "GUNDEL" which arrived in Boston on July 21, 1948 with twenty-nine hardy Latvians is an example. However, their motive, whether they be Pilgrims of the 17th century or Displaced Persons of the 20th century, is the same in planting a new home on foreign soil.... that of religious freedom.

We must remember John Smith of Jamestown, Virginia, for it was he who named this region "New England". He wrote: "In this voyage I took the description of the coast as well as by writing and called it New England." John Smith spent twenty-one years of his life promoting the colonization of New England so we shouldn't think of him only in connection with Virginia. He gets credit, too, for naming our Commonwealth, "Massachusetts", which in Indian means, "at the Great Hill".

What was the mighty motive for colonizing this "stern and rockbound coast"? The Puritans knew that King James I of England had said of them, "I will make them conform themselves or else will harry them out of the land or else do worse!"

Could a compromise be made? The story of the "Separatist" with his dislike for ceremony and statues in his church is a tale too well known to relate here. Compromise was not even considered. It is enough to recall that in December of 1620 the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth and New England was born.

^{2.} Edward Hartwell, Edward McGlenen, and Edward Skelton, BOSTON AND ITS STORY (Boston, 1916) 4

^{3.} William C. Abbott, Com. HIST. OF MASS. A. B. Hart, Ed. (N.Y., 1927) I, 10

SOCIAL HISTORY OF SOMERVILLE

1630-1842

CHAPTER ONE

1630-1742

Preface

"Ay, call it holy ground The soil where first they trod"

In 1629 King Charles of England was faced with a Parliament composed mostly of Puritans who were against any church ceremonies for which there was no authority in the Bible. The Puritans "were no meek and silent sufferers", says Abbott, "they were both vocal and militant". Charles was forced to dissolve Parliament and rule without one for eleven years! We are interested in one Puritan, in particular, who lost his position as a result of Charles' act. He was John Winthrop, an attorney. Winthrop began to put all his effort into heading a settlement where God's law could be followed as a Puritan believed. The Massachusetts Bay Colony selected Winthrop as Governor to found a colony in New England. They made a good choice as he had been a Trinity College student, a Justice of the Peace, a farmer, and above all a strict Puritan in religious matters.

^{1.} William C. Abbott, COMMONWEALTH HISTORY OF MASSACHUSETTS, Albert Bushnell Hart, ed., (New York, 1927), I,8.

the second secon "ARBELLA" descendants may be just as proud of their ancestors as those of the "MAYFLOWER" for Arthur P. Newton, who studied English colonization all his life has called them "sober, well-to-do men of middle age" who left England, not for an adventure, but to found a commonwealth.

On June 14 the "ARBELLA" dropped anchor in the North River of Naumkeag (Salem) in Massachusetts. The year was 1630 just ten years since the Pilgrims had landed. To the Puritans, Salem seemed crowded so on further exploration it was decided that Boston Harbor would make a better center of population. Charlestown was chosen as the temporary capital.

"Mishawum"

"Mishawum" had been occupied by people from Salem in 1629. They built for John Winthrop a "Great House" where he and his party lived for many weeks. Others, not so fortunate, crowded into shacks and soon became ill from diseases which they had contracted from living in such close quarters aboard ship. Deputy-Governor Dudley tells of the scattering of the immigrants; "some at Charlestown, some at Boston, some upon the Mystick, which we named Meadford....so they who had health fell to building."

It was Dudley, too, who suggested "a fort to retire to if an 2. Samuel E. Morison, THE BUILDERS OF THE BAY COLONY, (New York 1930),71.



^{3.} Hart, COMMONWEALTH, I, 166.

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enemy pressed us" and so "New Towne" was selected in 1630. It became "Cambridge" when Harvard College was founded. Three hundred and nineteen years later the places surrounding "Mishawum" remain the same, and Somerville at latitude 42° 24' 54" North and longitude 71° 5' 3" West has Medford on the east; Charlestown on the south; Cambridge on the west; and Arlington, (Metonomy) lies north.

"Shawmut"

Abundant fresh water was lacking in Charlestown so the Puritans accepted the invitation of the Reverend William Blackstone, a Beacon Hill bachelor, to move to "Shawmut" or "Trimountain". He was the first white settler of Shawmut peninsula and had a cabin with a rose garden overlooking the present Boston Common. Not far away Winthrop built his town house which he called "The Green". This house, built near a spring, at Blackstone's suggestion, had been brought over from Charlestown, and was considered "handsome for the times". It was destroyed by the British in 1775.

In honor of St. Botolph's town in England the name "Shawmut" was changed to "Boston".

Governor John Winthrop at Ten Hills

of all the places Winthrop lived we, in Somerville, are most interested in his summer location. In 1631 a grant of land (600 acres of which are now within the borders of our city) was deeded *Bas-relief: "Blaxton Greets Winthrop", is located on Beacon Street Mall of Boston Common, Boston, Massachusetts.

to him. "Ten Hills" was the title that he gave to his farm because of the number of heights that it had. The Governor erected a farmhouse on the right bank of the Mystic which meant that his summer and winter homes were about three miles apart. In his Journal of the year 1631 is recorded: "July 4) The governor built a bark at Mistick, which was launched this day, and called the BLESSING OF THE BAY." It was the first vessel built in Massachusetts and as such Somerville could well claim that the United States Navy had its beginning here. That the ship "BLESSING" was still in existence as late as 1675 is proved by Court records:

"In the case of James Elston master of the ship BLESSING in behalfe of himself against mr. Richard Wharton deffendt...The Court... doe order...the plaintiff..to pay the Costs of this Court...fowerteen shillings."5

The "ways" from which the ship was launched were in existence until 1903. A gavel, fashioned from the wood of this famous wharf, is now the property of the Somerville Historical Society.

We have no description of John Winthrop's home on Ten Hills

Farm but we can gather from his criticism of Deputy-Governor

Dudley's house at Cambridge that his own taste was simple.

Winthrop considered Dudley's home over-elegant because it was

adorned with wainscoting. Such expense was a poor example for

others, he felt. Dudley's excusable defence was the warmth that

4. John Winthrop, JOURNAL, (New York, 1908), I, 65.

5. George H. Evans, "Governor Winthrop's Ship BLESSING OF THE BAY", monograph (Somerville, 1933), 8.

it gave him and, said he, "the charge was but little being but 6 clapboards nailed to the wall in the form of wainscoting."

Governor Winthrop Lost on Ten Hills Farm

In the crowded residential section of Ten Hills today it is hard to picture the plight of Governor Winthrop, lost within a half mile of his door, three hundred years ago. The ancient saga as he penned it says:-

"The governor, being at his farm house at Mistick, walked out after supper, and took a piece (firearm) in his hand, supposing he might see a wolf, (for they came daily about the house, and killed swine and calves, etc.) and being about a half a mile off, it grew suddenly dark, so as, in coming home, he mistook his path, and went till he came to a little house of Sagamore John, which stood empty. There he stayed, and having a piece of match in his pocket (for he always carried about him match and a compass, and in summer time snakeweed) he made a good fire near the house, and lay down upon some old mats which he found there, and so spent the night, sometimes getting wood, sometimes walking by the fire, sometimes singing psalms, but he could not sleep. It was (through God's mercy) a warm night; but a little before day it began rain, and having no cloak, he made shift by a long pole to climb up into the house. In the morning, there came thither an Indian squaw, but perceiving her before she had opened the door, he barred her out; yet she stayed there a great while essaying to get in, and at last she went away, and he returned safe home, his servants having been much perplexed for him and having walked about and shot off pieces, and hallooed in the night, but he heard them not".7

^{6.} Harriet Silvester Tapley, "Women of Massachusetts"in "COMMON-WEALTH HISTORY OF MASSACHUSETTS, A.B. Hart, ed., (New York, 1927), 1, 294

^{7.} Winthrop, JOURNAL, 68

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"Wampum" and "Corne"

Just as it delights natives of Manhattan to compare the present worth of "New Amsterdam" with the price paid the Indians in 1623, it should amuse us to note that:-

"On the 15th of the 2d Mo.1639 Wee-Web Cowet & Squaw Sachem do sell unto the Inhabitants of the Towne of Charlestown all the land within the lines granted them by the court...We acknowledge to have received in full satisfaction twenty and one coats, nineteen fathoms of wampum, three bushels of corne...."8

The present real estate value of Somerville (whose boundary lines are included in the above agreement) as given in dollars, 9 (and not coats, shells, and corn) is \$124,761,200.

The use of "corne" the Puritans learned as did the Pilgrims from the friendly Indians. A Charlestown Captain wrote in 1628:

"The Lord is pleased to provide for them a great store of Fish in the spring time and especially Alewives about the bignesse of a Herring..they..put under their Indian Corne..."10

Today an "Alewife" Brook still winds its way through West Somerville where fish are caught in the spring of the year; and corn grows in "Victory" gardens. The hues of yore were "some yellow and some red, and others mixed with blew" as the Pilgrims described a cache found at Cape Cod.

- 8. Charles D. Elliot, Early History: Colonial" (SOMERVILLE JOURNAL SEMI CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR, (Somerville, 1892), 4.
- 9. City of Somerville, Massachusetts, ANNUAL REPORTS, 1947, 283.
- D. Edward Johnson, WONDER-WORKING PROVIDENCE OF SIONS SAVIOUR IN NEW ENGLAND, (London, 1654), 83.

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John Woolrich, Indian Trader

In the same year that Winthrop moved to Boston, John Woolrich came from the "Peninsula", (as Charlestown was also known) to live "without the neck". This means the land beyond Charlestown at its narrowest point and will be referred to, in this quaint phrasing, often. Woolrich thus became the first white settler of Somerville. The Indians traded with him and many knew his dwelling house on six acres of land "fenced a mile and a half in ye maine, on ye right hand of ye way to "Newtowne" on the southeast side of thehill". The location of his home is designated by a marker on Washington Street near Dane Street.

Indian Wars

We were very fortunate that "Sagamore John of Mystick, Prince of the Massachusetts" was so friendly to our early settlers. He gave us permission to settle here and it was his mother, Squaw Sachem, and his step-father, Web-Cowit, the physician, who deeded the tract of land to Charlestown, which is within the boundary lines of Somerville today. Sagamore John warned us of any plan of attack by other Indian tribes as shown by this Charlestown record:

"About the month of April..A.D.1630 there was a...design...of the...
Narragansetts...to cut off the English, which John Sagamore (who always loved the English) revealed to the inhabitants of this town".12

^{11.} Charles D. Elliot, "Early History: Colonial" (SOMERVILLE JOURNAL SEMI CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR, (Somerville, 1892),3

^{12.} Charles Brooks, HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF MEDFORD, (Boston, 1855),77

Sagamore John died in 1633 and soon after the Pequot tribe became hostile. Captain Edward Johnson, who settled in Charlestown in 1636 related:

"...was much aggravated by continuall feare of the INDIANS approach, whose cruelties were much spoken of, and more especially during the time of the PEQUOT wars...Thus this poore 13 people populate this howling Desart."

The news of attacks at Wethersfield, Connecticut the next year involved the lives of former Bay colonists who settled there under John Winthrop, Jr., son of the Massachusetts Bay governor.

After the Pequot Indians were subdued they were scattered to the control of other chiefs; to Bermuda; and the West Indies. Thirty-eight years of peace ensued. At present a few of the descendants of the tribe are living at Green Bay in Wisconsin.

The four decades of calm was broken however by the rise of King Philip in 1675. He attacked fifty-two of the ninety Massachusetts towns. Twelve towns were utterly destroyed; one thousand colonials were killed; and tragedy stalked the home of almost every inhabitant.

The Stinted Common

The center of settlement in Charlestown was close to Boston in what is now City Square. It is obvious then that such a narrow area (bounded by the rivers, Charles and Mystic) would need stock raising and farming beyond the neck of the peninsula.

13. Edward Johnson, WONDER-WORKING PROVIDENCE OF SIONS SAVIOUR IN NEW ENGLAND, (London, 1654),84

A 16

What is now Somerville became that "land without the Neck", the grazing ground for Charlestown cattle. Those who live in the Nunnery Ground, on Prospect, Central, Spring or Clarendon Hills will find it hard to imagine that this was once the "Cow Commons" where grass grew to the height of a man.

As early as 1635 this dividing of "the main" into the "Stinted Common" was acted upon. Each person was "valued at three cows" and since the "stint of land for one cow was one and one-half acres" each settler was entitled to four and one-laf acres as his "common". Were we to apply such a practice to today's population of 105,000 we would need 472,500 acres! Such, is an area equal to 739 square miles and Somerville is but four square miles in area!

The basis for dividing pasture land dates back to an English custom. It was agreed that the section of land nearest the settlers' homes would be set aside for military exercises. This was done. Today a vestige of this remains in the park at "The Neck" or Sullivan Square in Charlestown.

In 1681 this common land was laid out in "rangeways" in a north to south direction. They were forty rods in width with streets between eighty rods (or 1/4 of a mile apart).

^{14.} Charles D. Elliot, "The Stinted Common", HISTORIC LEAVES, (Somerville), I, 3, (1902), 7.

. ? . .

East of the Powder House in West Somerville they are as follows:

First Rangeway: Franklin Street

Second Rangeway: Cross and Shawmut Streets

Third Rangeway: Walnut Street

Fourth Rangeway: School Street

Fifth Rangeway: Central Street

Sixth Rangeway: Lowell Street

Seventh Rangeway: Cedar Street

Eighth Rangeway: Willow Avenue

West of Powder House Square according to Elliot, Somerville historian, there were three more rangeways extending from Broadway north to College Hill (now Tufts College). Rangeway one would be opposite what is now Simpson Avenue; rangeway two would be Curtis Street; and rangeway three would be North Street.

Governor Winthrop's "Ten Hills Farm" was not included in this "Stinted Common". Eleven hundred acres were happy hunting ground and "home on the range" for hundreds of contented cattle.

Seventeenth Century Schools "Within the Neck"

The twenty thousand English Puritans who migrated here before 1640 had a good background in the three "R's". Cubberley

asserts "that probably never since has the proportion of

15

college men in the community been so large". At first

^{15.} Ellwood P. Cubberley, HISTORY OF EDUCATION, (Boston, 1920), 363.

. .

children were taught in the home, especially to read the Bible so they could take an intelligent part in religious worship.

Charlestown has the honor of establishing a school eleven years before the famous Massachusetts Law of 1647 which compelled towns to maintain them. The town report says, "June 3, 1636: Mr. William Witherell was agreed with to keepe a schoole for a twelve month...& to have L40 for this yeare."

In 1661 one of the best known of all colonial schoolmasters, Ezekiel Cheever, began teaching in the Charlestown Grammar School on Town Hill, "Within the Neck". He was enticed however by a salary of L60 a year to teach in the Boston Latin School. Cheever died at the age of ninety-four, after having taught seventy-four years! Judge Sewall noted in his diary:- "August 23, 1708, 17 Mr. Cheever was buried from the schoolhouse".

It has been asserted that there was hardly a child of nine or ten years throughout the whole country at this time who could not read, write, and say his catechism. Frank Mortimer Hawes, who has written an excellent account of the schools in Charlestown during colonial times likes to think that:-

"...there may have been an ambitious boy or two fired by the zeal of a worthy pedagogue who sturdily trudged twice a day across the Neck from some newly cleared farm in Somerville to the little schoolhouse on Town Hill."

^{16.} Frank Mortimer Hawes, "Seventeenth Century Schools in Charlestown", HISTORIC LEAVES (Somerville), II,1, (1903),16.

^{17.} IBID, 21.

^{18.} IBID, 35.

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John Harvard

Although the "Without the Neck" section cannot claim John Harvard, the contribution made to education by this young minister, who lived "Within the Neck", is too great to overlook. Destined to die within a year after he and his bride arrived in Charlestown John Harvard's will left the newly founded college (1636) in "New Towne" his library and property amounting to eight hundred and fifty pounds.

The school was a model of Emmanuel College in Cambridge, England, where John Harvard spent school days of seventeen hours in length. Attending Grammar School, and particularly St. Saviour's, meant being in your seat at six o'clock in the morning until five o'clock in the afternoon. It is not strange that he died of consumption at such an early age, when we consider these long hours which followed a breakfast of bread and beer!

In a letter which was dated "Boston, Sept. 26, 1642" the founding of the college to be named in his honor is related:-

"After God had carried us safe to NEW ENGLAND and wee...builded..houses,..rear'd..places for Gods worship..and setled the Civill Government...we longed..to advance LEARNING ..dreading to leave an illiterate Ministery ..when our present Ministers shall lie in the Dust. And..it pleased God to stir up the heart of Mr. Harvard..to give the one halfe of his Estate..toward a Colledge."19

^{19.} Ellwood P. Cubberley, READINGS IN THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION, (Boston, 1920), 290.

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Witchcraft

It is difficult to believe that witchcraft was practiced in a town so closely connected with education. But witchcraft was already known to both Pilgrim and Puritan before they left England, as James I who took the throne in 1603 had written and published a paper on the subject.

"Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live" says the Bible and the law of 1641 read likewise: "If any man or woman be a witch... they shall be put to death". The questionable honor of being the first to die as a witch in this colony goes to Margaret Jones of Charlestown "within the Neck". She was a "physician" with a "malignant touch" which changed apparently harmless medicines so that they had "extraordinary effects". Although Margaret Jones denied her guilt loud and long the Court decided that she lied "notoriously" and she was hanged. Governor John Winthrop made note that "the same day and hour she was executed there was a very great tempest at Connecticut, which blew down many trees". The day was June 15, 1648 and if Margaret was the first to die in the Massachusetts Bay Colony as a witch she was certainly not the last for in the summer of 1692 thirteen women and seven men were put to death as witches in Salem. All were hanged, except one man, Giles Corey, who was pressed to death.

^{20.} E. W. Taylor, "Witchcraft Episode", COMMONWEALTH HISTORY OF MASSACHUSETTS, (New York, 1927) II, 33.

^{21.} John Winthrop, <u>JOURNAL</u> 1630-1649 (New York, 1908) II, 344.

^{22.} IBID, 345.

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The Old Powder House

We are not proud of the part our ancestors played in the witchcraft mania, but we have shown pride in one phase of our local history by petitioning Congress to issue a stamp in commemoration of an event. The petition pertains to a windmill. Here in Somerville, disguised as an old Powder House is a real mill, its fans, long since removed, the cause of a cruel master's death if we can believe the legend of the runaway Acadian girl. It is said that in the days of Mallet, the miller, before the building became famous as a powder magazine, our tale begins.

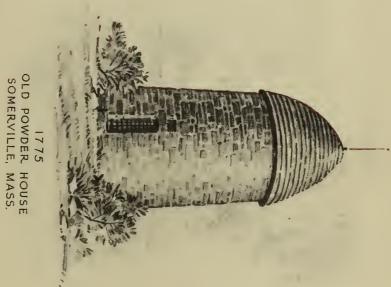
"One night an Acadian peasant girl dressed as a boy, applied at the miller's house for shelter, and asking to be allowed to sleep at the mill, the request was granted. In the morning her pursuers arrived and her master commanded her to come down. She refused, and the man, in climbing up into the mill to bring her down, started the machinery, and he was crushed so that he died the next day." 23.

As early as 1665 nine or ten acres of land were allotted to a Sergeant Richard Lowden. His son sold the land to Jean Mallet, the miller in the above legend, who built a structure thirty feet high and two feet thick, of brick and stone, in 1704. It was located on "Quarry Hill" near "Two Penny Brook". This cone shaped building, still standing today, is considered the most distinct antique ruin in the State of Massachusetts.

Mallet's son, Michael, sold the mill to the Province of

^{23.} Edward C. Booth, "The Old Powder House", SOMERVILLE JOURNAL SOUVENIR OF THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL, (Somerville, 1892), 9.

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Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1747 because the Government wished to use it as a magazine for powder.

In 1774 General Gage sent soldiers to seize the powder stored there. This was considered the first hostile act by the British in the events which led to the American Revolution.

This year (1949) being the 175th anniversary of the act we have petitioned Congress to place the Powder House on a stamp.

In the old burying ground on Phipps Street in Charlestown is the grave of the Huguenot, John Mallet. On his headstone, (which is overshadowed by the shaft of a more illustrious person, namely, John Harvard) you may read: "Here lyes ye Body of Mr. John Mallet...January 5th 1722/23 Aged about 78 Years."

As for Sergeant Richard Lowden we have a street which bears his name but "Two Penny Brook" (named for its small size) is no more.

Some Phases of Social History

We must be curious to know what sort of "poore people (d)
populate this howling Desart" as Johnson mentioned. New
Englanders live by so many institutions that the English introduced; the settlement of a town with a village "common"; a church; a meeting house; and a school to mention only a few. But what of the Puritan himself? Was he as stern as Saint-Gauden's 24 statue "The Puritan" appears to be? Or was he like us in the things he did; in the way he built his house; in the way he

^{24.} Charles Garrett Vannest and Henry Lester Smith, SOCIALIZED HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, (New York, 1931),76.

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he prayed; in the songs he sang; in the thoughts he had; and the days he celebrated? From actual accounts we find that our colonial ancestor was a personality who resembled us closely.

Puritan Houses

How did he build his house? When the Puritan landed he found abundant wood for building the frame house like the one he left in England. In 1630 more than a third of what is now the United States was covered with forests. Charlestown had plenty of timber but Boston boasted of only three trees on Beacon Hill *25. according to the first complete map of Boston published in 1722. Tree vandalism had been checked as early as 1635 when Boston passed an order to "prevent the trees planted in the settlement 26. from being spoiled".

The frame house, such as he knew in "oulde" England had a single room, huge chimney, loft above, and roof thatched with reeds and boughs. Proof of this type of dwelling, rather than the log cabin mentioned by some authors, lies in the nails which have been unearthed in Plymouth during the recent reconstruction of the 1620 settlement.

Since sparks from the chimney caused fire it was agreed in 1633 that all houses should be covered with slate or shingles.

Fire buckets and ladders were standard home equipment as every

^{*} For authentic reproduction see menu, "Captain John Bonner, 1722 'The Town of Boston in New England'", Patten's Restaurant, 41 Court Street, Boston, Mass.

^{25.} Sara A. Stone, "Some Old Trees", HISTORIC LEAVES, (Somerville), V,1,(1906),2.
26. IBID.,3.

Q 2 . colonist was a volunteer fireman on the "bucket brigade". The adults formed the line which passed the filled pails; the children formed a column which handled the empty ones. As an insurance against fire as well as for warmth in winter, bricks were imported in the early seventeenth century.

The Puritan and Church

How did he pray? We feel sure that many readers will recognize: "The Lord to mee a shepheard is, want therefore shall not I. Hee in the folds of tender-grasse, doth cause mee downe 27 to lie:... It is the "Twenty-third Psalm" as translated into metered rhyme in 1640 by John Eliot, Apostle to the Indians.

The sermons were generously peppered with Latin, Greek, and Hebrew quotations, allegory, and Bible excerpts. They were two hours in length! But few had the simple style of Thomas Hooker:

"You know the Dog must stay till his Master comes and...till...he cut his Meate, and... he hath nothing but the crums. So it is with a poore sinner; you must not thinke that God will bee at your becke...No, you must bee content till the Lord let the crums fall".28

Very few had the down-to-earth quality of Reverend Increase

Mather who preached on "Sleeping at Sermons":

"Some woful Creatures have been so wicked as to profess they have gone to hear Sermons on purpose, that so they might sleep, finding themselves at such times much disposed that way." 29

^{27.} Perry Miller and Thomas Johnson, THE PURITANS, (New York, 1938), 291.

^{28.} IBID.,282.

^{29.} IBID.,348.

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Puritan Music

What songs did he sing?

The Puritans brought the famous "Whole Booke of Psalmes"*
from England. Thus it became the "first book to appear in the
English speaking colonies of North America" when it was published by Stephen Day in 1640 as "The Bay Psalm Book". The
"Old Hundredth", familiar to church-goers today, was included
but because music was frowned upon as distracting, Day's collection contained words only.

In the next chapter we will read of the importance of Peter Tufts and his sons in settling this side of Boston. A grandson of Tufts, the Reverend John Tufts had the courage to introduce music to the chanted hymns. In 1715 his "Introduction to Singing of Psalm-Tunes" was published.

Worldly amusements such as instrumental music and dancing did not exist legally in the colonial life of Charlestown or any town in the seventeenth century. Dancing schools were permitted in the next century, however. The first concert of "sundry instruments" for which admission was paid was held in Boston in 31 1731. Since it was advertised in the "Boston News-Letter" we can imagine that an ancestor from "without the Neck" journeyed to hear it.

^{*}Original in the New York Public Library (Lenox Building)New York 30. IBID., 24

^{31.} John Tasker Howard, OUR AMERICAN MUSIC, THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF IT, (New York, 1946),8.

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Puritan Thoughts

Being New Englander's we would surely agree with Francis Higginson's description of the climate when he wrote in 1630:

"The temper of the Aire of NEW-ENGLAND is one spechiall thing that commends this place...for a sup of NEW-ENGLANDS Aire is better then a whole draft of old ENGLANDS Ale... In JULY and AUGUST it is a good deale hotter then in old ENGLAND;...and JANUARY and FEBRUARY are much colder as they say: but... SPRING and AUTUMNE are of a middle temper..."32

Certainly some Puritans had the courage of their convictions when we recall Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson who spoke plainly on religious matters, and suffered banishment from the Bay Colony.

Anne Bradstreet, the daughter of Governor Thomas Dudley, was the colony's first poetess. She was also a philospher. Her poetry is not considered very good today but the following reflections are fitting in our times: "If we had no winter the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome".

Puritan Holidays

No Somerville student would want to return to "ye goode olde" days for the holidays celebrated between 1630 and 1742.

^{32.} Miller and Johnson, THE PURITANS, 124.

^{33.} IBID., 575.

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Only five such days were set aside: -Thanksgiving Day, Training or Muster, Fast Day, Election and Commencement Days.

The first public Thanksgiving of the Bay Colony was held on February 22, 1630 in Boston. This was in appreciation of the safe arrival of food and friends from England. Governor Winthrop had just given away his last handful of corn to a needy person when a ship was sighted on the horizon.

Thanksgiving Day such as the Pilgrims inaugurated was noted by Winthrop's Journal when he wrote:- "November 4, 1631, we kept 34 thanksgiving day in Boston". But it was not always in the month of November as Boston commemorated Thanksgiving on June 18, in 1696. That year William Veazie, who hated the reigning King of England, William III, showed his freedom of conscience by ploughing! For this preference to farming and James II he was 35 set in the pillory located in Boston's market-place!

Victory over King Philip which ended the fear of Indians was the occasion for a Thanksgiving Day. The "broadside" (a printed single sheet of large sized paper similar to our proclamations by the Governor) can be seen in Boston today.

Training Day was of such serious importance in the early history of Indian raids that the holiday spirit did not enter until after the death of King Philip. The park at Sullivan

^{34.} Alice Morse Earle, CUSTOMS AND FASHIONS IN OLD NEW ENGLAND, (New York, 1919), 219.

^{35.} IBID.,220.

^{36.} Mass. Historical Society, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

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Square in Charlestown, known as "the Neck" was once the Training Field. Boston had its own field, Boston Common, where twelve hundred men exercised in the fall of 1639. John Winthrop was pleased to note in his diary that: "none was drunk, nor swore, 37 nor quarrelled".

Fast Day is still a holiday in New Hampshire. This day was held by the Puritans to appease God "for the crying sins of wig38
wearing, sheltering Quakers, and not paying ministers". Some towns ignored the Governor's appointed day in order to await an expected hogshead of molasses to be used in making pies.

"Election" Day was later to be known as 'Lection Proper and 'Tillery Election. It is most unusual to hear someone say, "We are witnessing an action which has happened almost every year 39 since 1638, in fact, 309 out of 311 times!" On the first Monday in June, of any year (except for the two years when Andros was Governor) the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston start their parade from Faneuil Hall, the oldest Armory in the United States. The Mayor of Boston joins them, and, at the State House the Governor "falls in". At the Common a Drumhead Election is held and those elected are commissioned by the Governor and the captain takes command. Judge Eugene Hudson of Somerville was the captain elected for the year 1948-1949.

37. Earle, CUSTOMS, 224.

38. IBID., 221.

^{39. &}quot;Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston", CENTEN-NIAL LEGION BULLETIN, (Baltimore), Vol. 2, No. 2, (October, 1948), 1.

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Commencement Day was one of the proudest holidays Puritans took part in. Their belief was:- If the college die, the church cannot live long. After graduation at Harvard wine and commencement cake (made with wine) were served and recreation followed.

Holidays such as we now take for granted were not met with approval in colonial times. Christmas, All Fools' Day, and May Day were frowned upon. Judge Sewall's diary relates:-

"Dec. 25, 1685 - Carts come to town and shops open as usual. Some somehow observe the day...blessed to God no authority..compel them to keep it".40

Nor could the Colonists enjoy some innocent fun on All Fools

Day. Sewall writes:-

"April 1, 1719 - In the morning I dehorted Sam. and Grindal. from playing Idle Tricks because 'twas. first of April; .N.E.Men came hither to avoid anniversary days, ... such as the 25th of Dec. How displeasing must it be to God. to keep anniversary days to play the fool ... " 41

On the first of May in Charlestown in 1687 a May-pole was erected but was promptly cut down before the townspeople could draw the wrath of their superiors as happened in Merry Mount (Quincy) twenty years before!

^{40.} Alice Morse Earle, CUSTOMS AND FASHIONS IN OLD NEW ENGLAND, (New York, 1919), 215.

^{41.} Miller and Johnson, THE PURITANS, (New York, 1938), 520

CHAPTER TWO

1742-1842

Events Leading to the Revolution

Although we have not found proof of our Charlestown colonials' participating in the French and Indian wars we feel safe in assuming that they were among the 3,250 men who sailed from Massachusetts to take Louisburg. Surely, too, the results of that magnificent failure, the Albany Congress, were discussed after church meeting. Among the four hundred Massachusetts men on the Plains of Abraham in 1759 possibly there was a Charlestown man present. Surely the news of the Peace of 1763 following the French and Indian wars was pleasant news to discuss over the teacups. (And tea was by then an afternoon custom and not a medicinal weed). To mariners the Naviagation Acts, the Trade Laws, the Acts Forbidding Manufacture with taxes on sugar, molasses, and foreign imports were a cruel blow to our colonials. But the Stamp Act, placing a tax on articles such as newspapers, one's marriage license, that precious Harvard diploma, and even the Almanac, seemed more than was fair. Finally the Townshend Act caused an event which was known the length of the colonies. "The Boston Massacre" of March 5, 1770, was a foreshadowing of things to come.

Have you ever heard any child say, "Prove it!" I'm sure you have and with this next event, the famous Boston Tea Party we can call upon William Preble Jones, Somerville's historian,

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who tells us that there was an English cabin boy named Loring who, at the age of ten stood startled and in terror at the sight of American Indians, who dressed in full regalia and warpaint, boarded his vessel, seized boxes of tea, and with hatches broke them open and wordlessly tossed them into the harbor. Master Loring later became a naturalized citizen and told the story to his grandson who in turn related it to William Preble Jones. This Tea Party took place on December 16 one hundred and seventy six years ago.

The Boston Port Bill, the next year, which discontinued the shipping of goods and removed the government to Salem directly affected Charlestown families since many were engaged in trade. Even George Washington was moved to cry, "If need be I will raise one thousand men, subsist them at my own expense, and march myself at their heads for the relief of Boston".

The Ride of Paul Revere

Meanwhile General Thomas Gage had been dispatched to Boston to take command of the British soldiers. Surely no milder rule was ever maintained than that of General Gage. Despite the fact that we refused to put up buildings or sell the British food for the soldiers Gage showed superhuman patience in dealing with deliberately disagreeable colonials. The fact that he had an American wife may have influenced his attitude.

^{1.} Albert Bushnell Hart, ed. "Honor to George Washington", UNITED STATES BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, (Washington, D.C., 1932), 105

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Gage planned to send his soldiers to capture the Colony stores in Concord. He probably knew where they were hidden as well as the hiding place of John Hancock and Samuel Adams in Lexington. On April 18, 1775 the Committee of Correspondence were notified, through watchmen that Gage's men intended to leave Boston...destination unknown. Paul Revere, post rider and silversmith watched the Old North Church for the sexton to hang "one (lantern) if by land, and two if by sea". The poet errs when he says, "And I on the opposite shore will be" because Revere was on the same side ready to take off with muffled oars, past the SOMERSET as she lay at anchor. Two lights had blinked so there was no time to lose. The good deacon, Larkin, had a horse in readiness. Paul galloped to what is now City Square, along Main Street to Charlestown Neck. He intended to take what is now Washington Street, then known as Cambridge Street since it led to that town but let him tell the story for himself:-

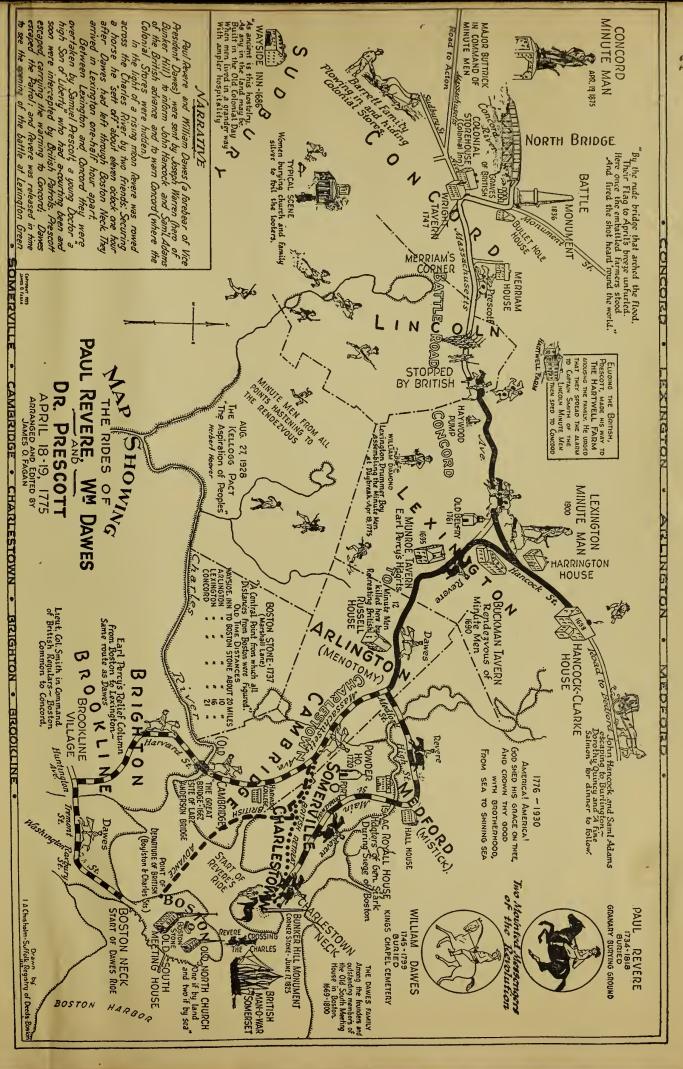
"After I had passed Charlestown Neck and got nearly opposite where Mark was hung in chains I saw two men on horseback under a tree. When I got near them I discovered they were British officers. One tried to get ahead of me, and the other to take me. I turned my horse very quickly and galloped toward Charlestown Neck, and then pushed for the Medford Road. The one who chased me endeavored to cut me off, got into a clay pond nearwhere the new tavern is now built..."4

^{2.} Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "Paul Revere's Ride".

^{3.} IBID.

^{4.} Paul Revere's OWN ACCOUNT OF HIS MIDNIGHT RIDE APRIL 18-19, 1775, Old South Leaflet, No. 222, (Boston, 1922),4.

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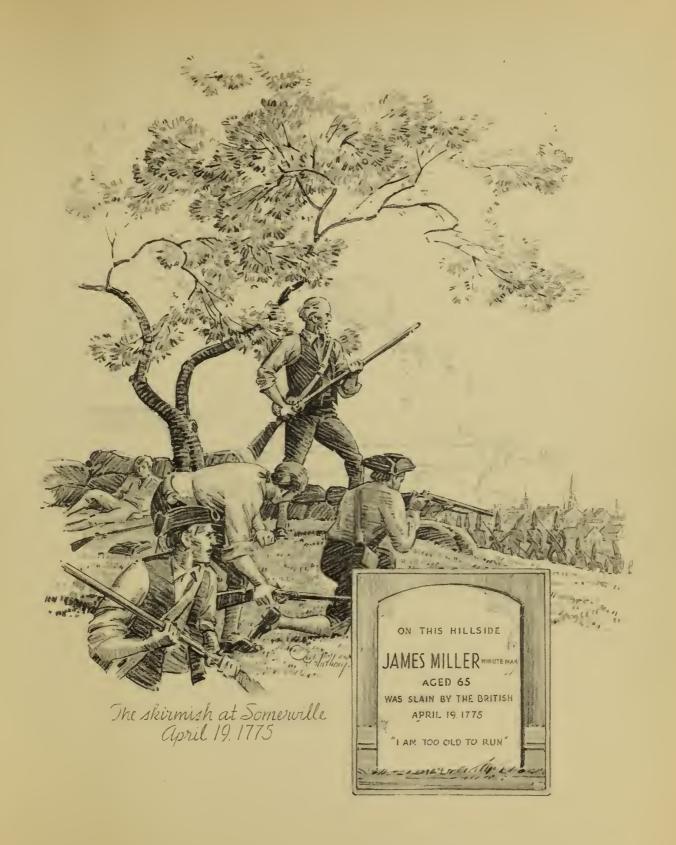
After galloping up what is now Broadway to Winter Hill "It was twelve by the village clock when he crossed the bridge into 5
Medford town" according to Longfellow's poem.

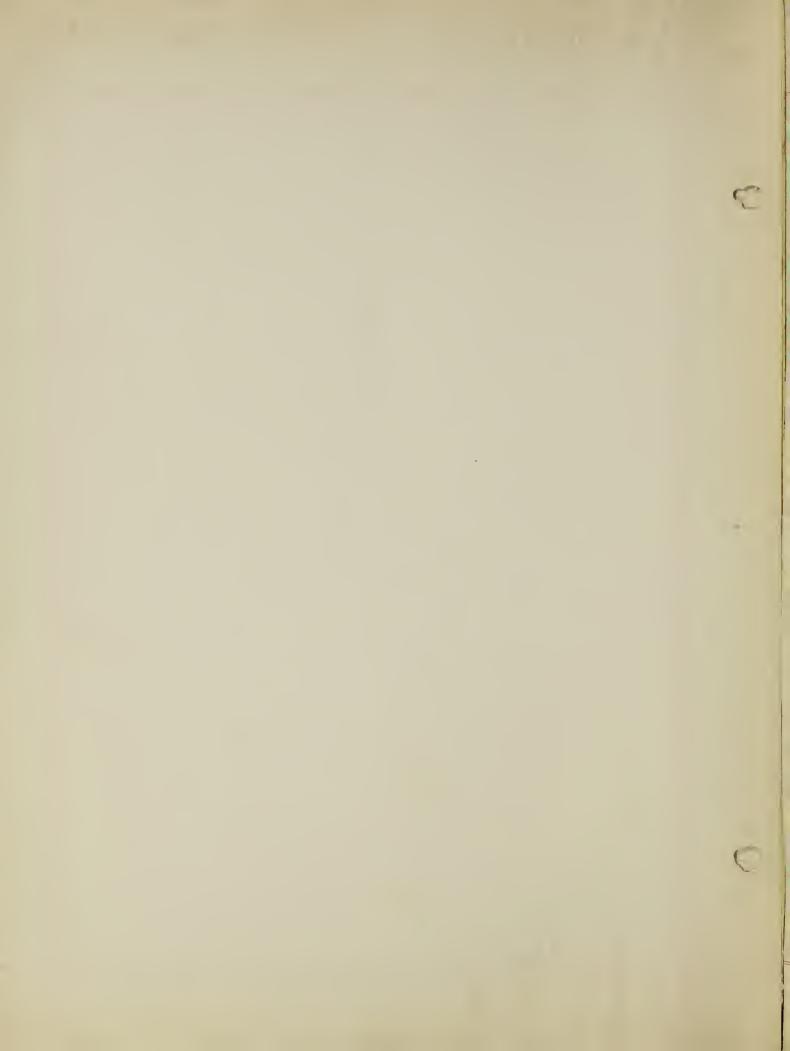
British Pass Through the Town

While all this was happening the British troops under Lt. Colonel Smith had come ashore at Lechmere Point (near the present Cambridge Court House) and followed Cambridge Street to Milk Row. They took this road through the Charlestown countryside in order to avoid Harvard College and the village of Cambridge. As the British regulars marched along Milk Row (now Elm Street) they passed by the home of Samuel Tufts, later the headquarters of Greene. Mr. Tufts was making the bullets in his kitchen at the time so he did not note the soldiers, but a neighbor, Mrs. Rand saw the red coats and sent her son, Thomas to arouse those living nearby. At the corner of Willow Avenue and Elm Street, the soldiers stopped to drink from the well in front of Timothy Tufts' home. The dog barked at the strangers and the Tufts peeked out of their window. Again we have our historian, William Preble Jones, to tell us that the grandson of the Timothy Tufts, himself a Timothy Tufts, told Mr. Jones the story of his grandparents seeing the British regulars just as those grandparents, standing in the same spot, told the story to him, when he was a very young boy.

Of the skirmish at Lexington and the battle at Concord Bridge "where the shot was fired which was heard 'round the 5. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "Paul Revere's Ride".

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world" we pass over quickly to pick up the story as the British, tired, bedraggled and wounded, retreated along the route of their midnight march to the scene of their draught of water. But on the way back they were met with a hail of bullets as the patriots ambushed them from the cover of houses, bushes and trees. At this point a marker locates the graves of British soldiers below the level of the streets.

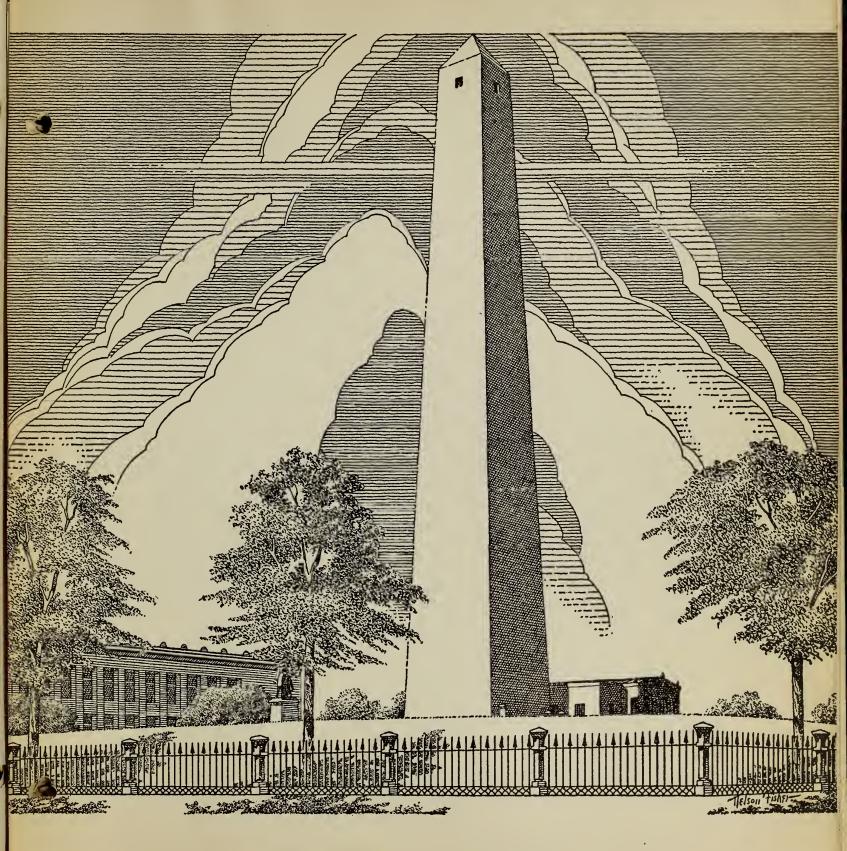
Among the legends following the American Revolution, is one of James Miller. As the British moved along Cambridge Road fellow fighters told the old man, Miller, to run. His historic reply is hewned on a tablet near the Pope School for all to see:-"I Am Too Old To Run!".

The Battle of Bunker Hill

The British were happy to leave the wooded countryside of Charlestown with its unseen snipers for the comparative safety of Boston. Gage had ordered Bunker Hill fortified but those plans were abandoned temporarily. Gage overlooked the second hill known in history as "Bunker Hill" but in reality "Breed's Hill" and the scene of the next encounter with the British.

But before the now famous battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, the whole area between Harvard College and the Mystic River became an armed camp. A thousand minute-men had been drawn to the scene by the news of Lexington and Concord. General Artemus Ward assumed command on April 20 and was ably assisted by Colonel William Prescott of Pepperell; Colonel John Stark in charge of New Hampshire troops on Winter Hill; and General Israel

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Bunker Hill Monument, Charlestown, Massachusetts

ments of Boston Edison Company



Putnam, who left his plow in Connecticut to train troops at Prospect Hill.

Prescott's plan was to fortify Bunker Hill before Gage became entrenched there. Putnam doggedly stuck to the idea of arming Breed's Hill instead. The fact that it lay nearer to Boston and the British ships may have been the deciding point. The Yankees under cover of darkness built the redoubt on June 16th and when Burgoyne's men awoke the next morning on Copp's Hill they could hardly believe their eyes. However they went in to immediate action firing across the water to the fortified Breed's Hill. At 3:00 P.M., and with the temperature high, Howe's men advanced weighted down with three days! provisions, knapsacks, and ammunition, estimated at 125 pounds. The order had been passed by Prescott:- "Hold fire. Wait until you see the whites of their eyes". Three times the British advanced and twice they retreated. On the third advance the Americans retreated. The battle resulted in greater loss by death and injury to the British than to the colonists and the Americans gained in morale beyond measure.

Somerville's Hills in the American Revolution
Winter Hill

George Washington was not present at the battle of Bunker Hill but he arrived not long after as a note to President John

^{6.} Charles D. Elliot, Early History: Revolutionary, SOMERVILLE JOURNAL SOUVENIR, (Somerville, 1892), 5.

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Hancock of the Continental Congress says:-

"I arrived safe at this place on the third instant...I visited the...posts occupied by our troops...on our side we have thrown up intrenchments on Winter and Prospect Hills...the enemy's camp in full view, at a distance of a little more than a mile..."7

These visits have been substantiated by two soldiers, Paul Lunt of Newburyport, and Noah Chapin of Somers, Connecticut who kept journals. They place the day as the second of July, and not the third.

Those of us who have visited Mount Vernon and know of its natural beauty of setting can understand an order issued by Washington on July 16, regarding respect for private property:-

"...the General in passing New Hampshire lines...observed most wanton, mischievous and unprofitable abuse of property in the destruction of many valuable trees which were standing along the road...he therefore orders that an effective stop be put to such practices..." 8

This must have been Winter Hill, for here the New Hampshire troops were stationed. The lack of wood was evident in the construction of their camps. John Hayes, former President of the Somerville Historical Society, wrote:-

"The camps were as odd as the soldiers.... Some were made of boards and some of sail cloth; some partly of one and partly of another; others were made of stone and turf, brick and bush. Some indicated haste

^{7.} George Hill Evans, George Washington in Somerville, SOMERVILLE HISTORICAL MONOGRAPH (Somerville, 1933),3.

^{8.} IBID.,4.

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of construction, while others had curiously wrought doors and windows made with withes, basket-like." 9

The army had no uniforms and not even enough clothes to withstand the cold blasts of Winter Hill. In his first letter to Congress Washington asked for "a number of hunting shirts, not less than ten thousand". On December 31 he wrote:-

"We have suffered prodigiously for want of wood. Many regiments have been obliged to eat their provisions raw for want of fuel to cook it, notwithstanding we have burned up all the fences and cut down all the trees for miles around the camp. Our suffering has been inconceivable. The barracks have been greatly delayed for want of stuff. Many of the troops are yet in tents and will be for some time." 10

General Greene wrote to his neighbor, General Sullivan, that his fingers were so benumbed he could scarcely hold his pen. The enemy also had reason to feel the cold of "Winter Hill" because after the defeat of Burgoyne the Hessians, nearly 2,000 in number under Baron von Riedesel occupied the barracks on this hill. Burgoyne's defeat took place on October 17, 1777.

The General's accomplished wife, Baroness von Riedesel wrote an interesting account of their imprisonment:-

"We were billeted at that house of a countryman, where we had only one room under the roof. My women-servants slept on the floor, and our men-servants in the entry. Some straw which I had placed under our beds served us for a long time, as I had with me nothing more than my own field bed. Our host

^{9.} John Hayes, Historical Address, A SOUVENIR OF WINTER HILL, (Somerville, Mass. 1890),16.

^{10.} IBID.,17.

THE REST OF STREET STREET, STR and the second s . and the state of t the design of the second secon allowed us to eat in his room where the whole family together ate and slept. The man was kind, but the woman in order to revenge herself for the trouble we brought upon her, cut up the prank, every time we sat down to table, of taking that time to comb out her children's heads, which were full of vermin, which very often entirely took away our appetites; and if we begged her to do this outside, or select some other time for this operation, she would answer us, "It is my room, and I like to comb my children's hair at this time". We were obliged, therefore to be silent lest she thrust us out of the house". 11

The Baron shared his wife's dislike for the woman of the house as he wrote:-

"The landlord was very kind but his other half was a veritable dragon, doing everything to offend and annoy her obnoxius guests". 12

Congress had refused to carry out the terms, most advantageous for Burgoyne's men, of returning to their native land.

Washington saw, what Gates had not, that new men would be sent to take the place of these British and Hessians. In September of 1778 the British who had been on Prospect Hill were sent to Rutland and Barre in Massachusetts while the Hessians were despatched to Virginia. Few ever returned to Hesse.

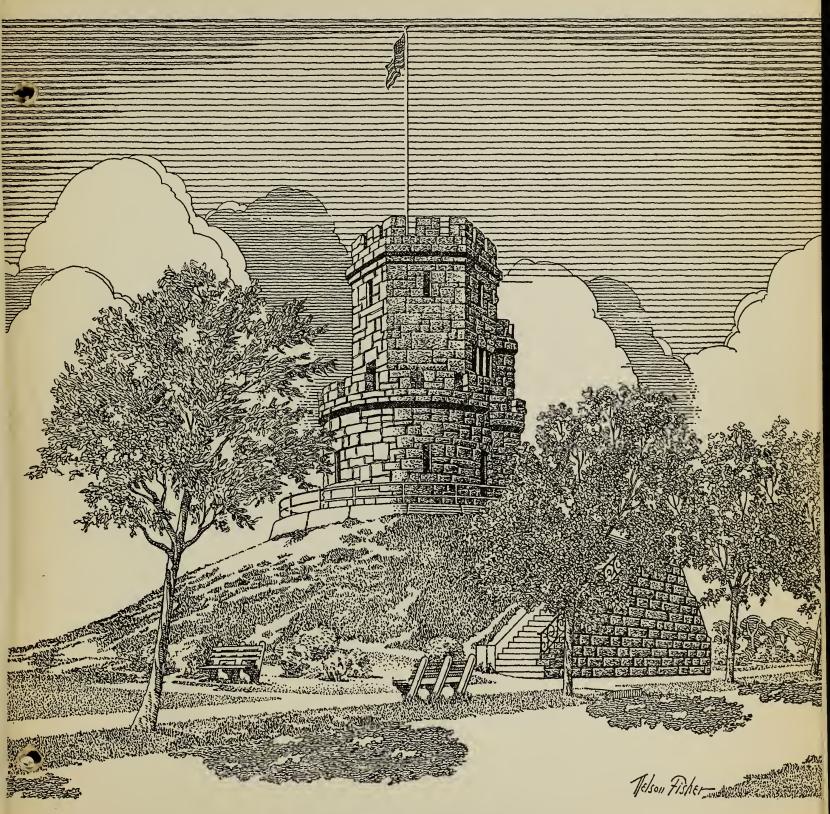
Prospect Hill

The story of Prospect Hill is best told in the lines of the

^{11.} John Hayes, Historical Address, A SOUVENIR OF WINTER HILL, (Somerville, 1890),17.

^{12.} Op.cit.

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Prospect Hill Tower - Somerville, Massachusetts



inscriptions which adorn the Prospect Hill Tower today: -

"THE AMERICAN ARMY UNDER GENERAL PUTNAM
ON JUNE 17, 1775
WITHDREW FROM BUNKER HILL TO THIS HEIGHT
AND HERE ERECTED THE
CITADEL
THE STRONGEST WORK
IN THE BESIEGING LINES OF BOSTON
AND WHICH FOR THE NINE MONTHS WITHSTOOD
THE BRITISH BOMBARDMENT

One month after the retreat from the Battle of Bunker Hill the declaration of the Continental Congress was read to the troops on Prospect Hill and a flag sent by Connecticut friends to Putnam was unfurled. The cheering was so great "that the British troops on Bunker Hill rushed for arms for fear of an immediate 13 attack". The marker describes it thus:-

JUNE 17, 1775, TO MARCH 17, 1776

"HERE ON JULY 18, 1775 WAS RAISED AMID GREAT REJOICING THE FLAG PRESENTED TO GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM AND HIS HERIOC SOLDIERS
BEARING THE MOTTO OF CONNECTICUT "QUI TRANSTULIT SUSTINET"
AND OF MASSACHUSETTS, "AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN".

These Somerville hills were again the scene of action when in less than two months Washington's two-fold plan to take Quebec was being enacted. General Montgomery was to move from Champlain to take Montreal; while Benedict Arnold was to grope his way through the wilderness of Maine to take Quebec. Members of Arnold's Expedition kept Journals which can be seen in the

^{13.} Herbert E. Hill, HISTORIC HEIGHTS, (Boston, 1885),7

··· Library of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge,
Massachusetts. Captain Henry Dearborn, later to become Secretary
of War on Jefferson's administration wrote of Somerville:-

"Septem 10 1775 I marched my Company from Winter-Hill to Cambridge 11th 12th and the chief of the 13th. We Lay at Cambridge preparing for the March...at 5 OClock P.M. Marched from Cambridge to Medford and Encamped".14

If they knew what was ahead of them, the sickness, slow death, starvation, and finally disaster at the hands of the British they would not have marched off so gaily Joseph Henry's diary tells us:-

"This little army, in high spirits, marched from Prospect Hill, near Cambridge in Massachusetts, on the 11th of September, 1775, and arrived at Newburyport". 15

Of the three best known in the group, Montgomery was killed; Benedict Arnold was wounded in the left leg; and Aaron Burr escaped unhurt.

Every Somerville school child is familiar with the painting by Clyde O. DeLand "Raising the First American Union Flag on Prospect Hill, January 1, 1776" for it is found in many class-rooms. The plaque at Prospect Hill Tower describes the unfurling thus:

"FROM THIS EMINENCE ON JANUARY 1, 1776
THE FLAG OF THE UNITED COLONIES BEARING

14. Kenneth Roberts, MARCH TO QUEBEC, (New York, 1938), 130

*See model "Camp Disaster on Dead River" on exhibit in vault room of First National Bank, 67 Milk Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

15. IBID., 302

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THIRTEEN STRIPES AND THE CROSSES OF SAINT GEORGE AND SAINT ANDREW FIRST WAVED DEFIANCE TO A FOE".

The Somerville poet, and first librarian, Sam Walter Foss, author of "The House By The Side of The Road" has written a long poem in honor of Prospect Hill called "The Flag of Prospect Hill".

The turning point of the Revolution, the Battle of Saratoga, resulted in Burgoyne's troops being quartered in Somerville, awaiting their "free passage" to England which Gates had promised them in his agreement. Congress refused to ratify this promise and the prisoners became very unruly. Elliot, Somerville's authority on Revolutionary history, writes that these soldiers almost revolted and since they were allowed to keep their sidearms and horses it took great pains to prevent trouble. officers and soldiers were confined to certain limits which included parts of Somerville. Cambridge. Watertown. and Arlington which to us seems quite a large area to travel in for "captive" enemy. The winter of 1777-8 was a particularly cold one and life on Prospect Hill must have been most unbearable. Farmers complained that "friend as well as foe made depredations upon their firewood and fences". The tower on Munroe Street tells the tale but briefly:-

> "THE FLOWER OF THE BRITISH ARMY PRISONERS OF WAR WHO SURRENDERED AT SARATOGA WERE QUARTERED ON THIS HILL FROM NOVEMBER 7, 1777, TO OCTOBER 15, 1778 GUARDED BY AMERICAN TROOPS UNDER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH".

mer :

The following is the inscription found on the inside of the tower:-

"THIS TABLET IS ERECTED IN MEMORY OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTION AND OF THE CIVIL WAR WHO ENCAMPED ON PROSPECT HILL AND OF THE BANNERS UNDER WHICH THEY VALIANTLY FOUGHT".

Central Hill

The other redoubts visited by George Washington were:the French Redoubt, the White House Redoubt, the Ten Hills Farm
Redoubt, and Fort Number Three.

The French Redoubt was located on the northwest peak of Prospect Hill. Today we call this Central Hill and here are located the City Hall, the High School and Gymnasium, and the Central Library.

The White House Redoubt seems to refer to a point between Central Hill and Winter Hill. General Charles E. Lee's Head-quarters, the Oliver Tufts House which is still standing, seems to be the "White House" in question.

Ten Hills

The Ten Hills Farm Redoubt was according to Evans, "some distance below the big bend of the Mystic River, opposite the junction of School Street with Broadway. It commanded the river approach and...prevented a flank attack by British warships".

This attempt was made.

^{16.} George Hill Evans, "George Washington in Somerville", SOMERVILLE HISTORICAL MONOGRAPH, (Somerville, 1933),11.

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Fort Number Three

Fort Number Three was situated at the foot of Prospect Hill south of and near Union Square. Thus Prospect Street, which leads into Cambridge, and Miller's Creek which emptied into the Charles River were protected from assault.

Ploughed Hill

Two forts were built after the July 2nd visit of Washington. Ploughed Hill and Cobble Hill were their quaint names. Neither can be wholly seen today. Ploughed Hill may be better known to most as Mount Benedict, the scene of a disgraceful action by thoughtless Charlestown citizens when they burned the Ursuline Community House in 1834. Since that time the hill has been leveled and only Austin Street gives any idea of the height it once boasted. This closely housed area, now known as the "Nunnery Ground" was the hill nearest to the British since it was on Broadway, a continuation of Main Street in Charlestown. Ploughed Hill was constantly under fire as the advanced trenches of the British were pushed out from Charlestown to the foot of this hill. We have no proof that Washington was present at this fortified spot, since Lee, whose headquarters were not far away on Sycamore Street off Winter Hill, was immediately in charge.

Cobble Hill

We can find only railroad tracks today where once George
Washington himself superintended his soldiers on Cobble Hill as

. -----and the second s . 6 told in a letter written by him to Richard Henry Lee: -

"DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 13th....for which I thank you, came to this place on(Nov.22) part of which, that is the night, I was engaged with a party of men throwing up a work upon a hill called Cobble Hill...".17

The Boston to Lowell and Fitchburg Railroad lines pass through the Cobble Hill grounds where once Putnam's impregnable fortress stood. In 1792 a fine brick mansion was erected here by Joseph Barrell, a Boston merchant. When in 1816 an asylum for the insane was constructed through the Massachusetts General Hospital this brick house became the physician's home. The MacLean Asylum as it was best known, was moved to Waverley in 1895. Dr. Luther V. Bell superintended the hospital for twenty years after 1836. A school house was named for him in honor of his efforts on the Somerville School Committee. Another important person was Mrs. Columbus Tyler, matron of the institution for thirty years. Her home, on Central Street, is now the Greek Orthodox Church. Her claim to fame is that as a child she was the heroine of the poem. "Mary Had a Little Lamb".

Life In Colonial Charlestown
Home Life

"I live in a house where George Washington visited often!"

Such a statement can be made in Somerville today since two houses

where his officers lived during the Revolution are being occupied

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by private families. One of these excellent examples of seventeenth century architecture is the Nathaniel Greene House on Somerville Avenue which was once the home of Peter Tufts. His father bought it in 1701 so it was built before that date. The other house, once the headquarters of the Somerville Historical Society is called the Charles E. Lee House in honor of the General who commanded the left wing of the Continental Army. This house belonged to another Tufts whose name was John.

To imagine the interiors as they appeared in past times we need only visit the home of Paul Revere in Boston, the Royall House in Medford, or the Fairbanks House in Dedham which dates from 1638. Charles E. Lee also lived in the Royall Mansion which was called "Hobgobblin Hall" because its long halls made an eery sound. But although Lee loved living there because of the spacious grounds and the wealth which was displayed he was too far from his troops and Washington's headquarters in Cambridge.

The Puritans home was sparsely furnished as their religion dictated simplicity in their environment as well as in dress.

The huge fireplace was the center of interest, for its warmth, its fuel for cooking, and for uncertain light. Pewter, and wooden trenchers (from which two ate at a time) were standard utensils as few had tin plates. Governor Winthrop brought over 18 the only knife and fork then used in the colony and his drinking 18. Alice Morse Earle, HOME LIFE IN COLONIAL DAYS, (New York, 1927)

THE RESERVE THE PARTY OF THE PA and the same part of the late of the same and the second s . The fact of the second contract of the seco terms of the part -----4 the state of the s the same of the sa jug, the oldest in the country, is still in existence. Among the useful articles which most colonists considered necessary were: fire bucket, candle mold, flame snuffer, warming pan, spinning wheel, lantern, quilts, bellows, andirons, tongs, cupboard, chest, bed and trundle, tables, and stools.

Man's work being from "sun to sun" he was employed as a landlord, farmer, fisherman, trader, trapper, teacher, or clerk. His sons had little time for play as they worked side by side when school was not in session.

Woman's work was "never done" for she had to cook, wash clothes, make birch brooms, spin and weave (as the General Court had decreed in 1656 that every household be so ordered) as well as make the garments the whole family wore. However, clothes were washed only one day a month! The lack of sufficient clean clothing was mentioned by Judge Sewall in his diary when he wrote:- "Visited Mad W. who treated me courteously, but not in Clean Linen as sometimes....". Not enough credit has been given to "antient maids", those spinster aunts who helped by knitting, preserving, tending flowers and herb gardens, making candles, and brewing ale.

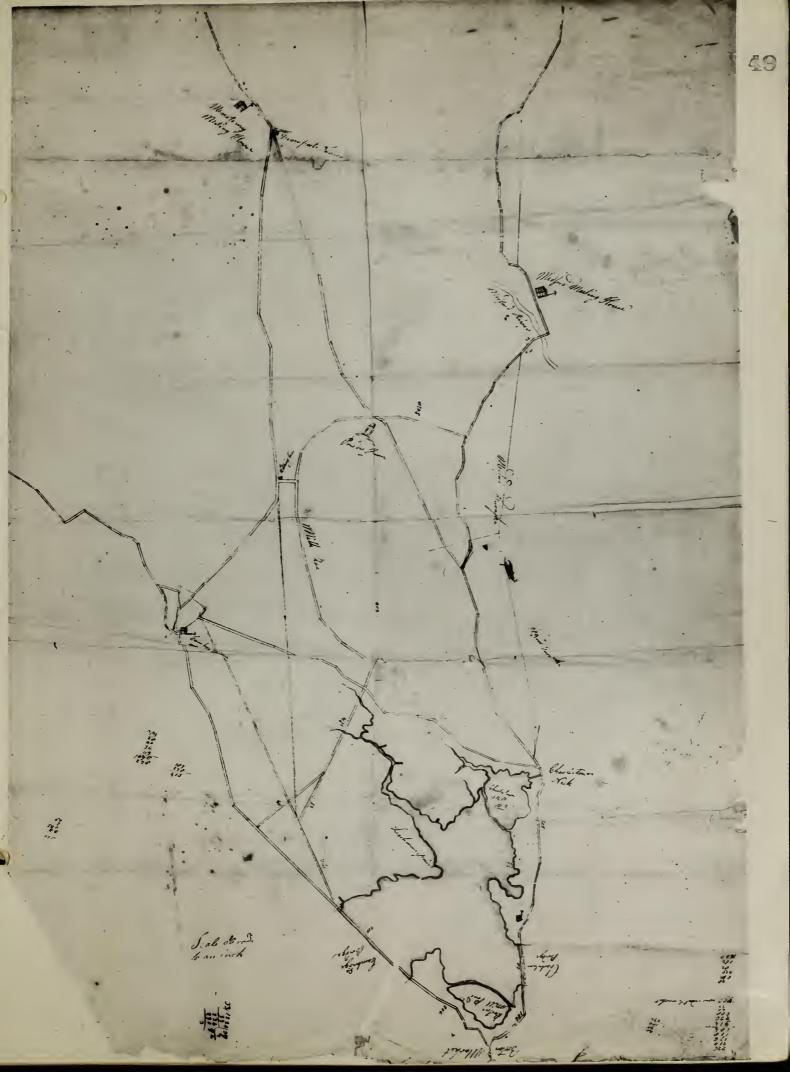
The "dame school" was carried on by a teacher who sometimes rocked the cradle while she taught the three "R's". Even then 19. American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts. 20. Samuel Sewall, DIARY, Mark Van Doren, ed., (New York, 1927), 256.

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Photostatic copy of a map of colonial Charlestown (now Somerville) showing routes to Boston markets. This recently discovered map, attributed to Peter Tufts, Surveyor, 1818, is located in the Somerville Historical Society.

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Photosistic copy of a mir of coloniel Charlostown (now Som rille) showing routes to Boston mark-ts. This recently discovered rap, a tributed to leter Tufts, Surveyor, 1818, is located in the Somerville Historical Rociety.





women worked other than in the home. Seamstresses, booksellers, printers, traders and even meat slaughterers were sometimes women in the early days of Boston. Tavern-keeping was an accepted position for widows much as women take in boarders today to eke out a living. Since men seemed to die at an earlier age than women, due to the fact that "the life of the male colonists 21 was hard, exposure was great, and many died in middle age" their wives carried on the work. Mrs. Ann Pollard of Boston was a famous inn-keeper who lived to the ripe old age, for a Puritan, of 105 years! She was a girl of ten when Winthrop rejected the Charlestown site and rowed to "Trimountain". Ann was the first to jump off the boat onto soil later named Boston.

Taverns, Travelers, and Transportation

Have you ever realized that even the smallest communities in Massachusetts had an inn? "It's the law" is the answer, for in 1656 the General Court of Massachusetts decreed that an "ordinary" (meaning inn or tavern) must be provided for the convenience of travelers. Even John Winthrop's "Great House" which was built prior to his coming to Charlestown, became "The Three Cranes", a most popular inn. It was burned unfortunately by the British on June 17, 1775.

A visit to the town tavern was a treat for here on might find a letter, a stranger, or a newspaper! Early in 1639 it was

^{21.} Alice Morse Earle, STAGECOACH AND TAVERN DAYS, (NewYork, 1915), 20.

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decreed "that notice be given that Richard Fairbanks, his house in Boston, is the place appointed for all letters, which are 22 brought from beyond the Seas, or are to bee sent thither".

Thus in the birthplace of the first postmaster-general of the United States, Benjamin Franklin, a post-office was started long before he was born.

The stranger might later have been Benjamin Franklin himself. He traveled so much that he became bored with the constant
questioning of news hungry people. He would call the inn workers
together and say,

"My name is Benjamin Franklin. I was born in Boston. I am a printer by profession, am traveling to Philadelphia, I shall return at such a time, and have no news. Now, what can you give me for dinner?" 23

Or the stranger might be Franklin's teacher, Mrs. Sara

Knight, a Boston widow, who traveled from Boston to New York in

1704 on horseback accompanied by the government postman. This

amazing journey for those days, and by a woman, is humorously

recounted in her own diary containing conversations, poems, and

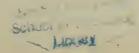
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her own philosophy.

The newspaper might be the "News-letter", "The New-England Courant", or later "The Boston Chronicle" and "Boston Gazette".

- 22. Maud and Miska Petersham, AMERICA'S STAMPS, (New York, 1947), 11.

 23. Alice Morse Earle, STAGE COACH AND TAVERN DAYS, (New York, 1915), 69.
- 24. Barrows Muzzey, WE WERE NEW ENGLAND, (New York, 1937), 368-376.



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Music Known and Loved

From 1742 to 1842 the music familiar to Charlestown folk was either religious or patriotic for the most part.

An unusual personality in the field was William Billings,
Bostonian author of the "New England Psalm Singer" a book which
was still in use by the nineteenth century. A tanner by trade,
Billings preferred to write music. It was hard to support a
wife and six children as a musician because Boston disliked his,
to them, unorthodox methods. Self taught, his appearance and
personality were against him and he soon became an object of
ridicule. During the siege of Boston he parodied the 137th
Psalm as a "Lamentation Over Boston" which became very popular.
His "Chester" which related the dislike held for Howe, Burgoyne,
Clinton, and Cornwallis, was so well known that it is considered
the "Over There" of its day. Billings lies buried in an unmarked
grave on Boston Common.

A contemporary of Billings was Oliver Holden, who wrote a melody popular even today, "Coronation" which was set to the words of "All Hail the Power of Jesus! Name".

Those who witnessed the inaugural tour of George Washington in 1789 heard a composition of William Selby's. He was the organist at King's Chapel.

As to "Yankee Doodle" the origin of this is claimed by so many countries that its source is unknown. When Lord Percy's troops marched out of Boston bound for Lexington they kept step

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to the tune of "Yankee Doodle". But when the Colonials routed the British at Concord they returned singing it! The belief that the British played "The World Turned Upside Down" and the Americans answered with "Yankee Doodle" at Yorktown has no basis 25 in fact.

"Hail Columbia" was written by Joseph Hopkinson, son of Francis Hopkinson, considered our first native composer as well as a signer of the Declaration of Independence. "Hail Columbia" was published in 1798 when war with France seemed inevitable.

"Adestes Fideles" was introduced to the United States from
Portugal in the year 1800 as a hymn for Christmas Day. Its

"port of entry" was Baltimore, the Catholic center of the times.

The "Star Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key and its contribution to the War of 1812 is too well known to be related here.

"America" was the work of another minister like Tufts.

Samuel Francis Smith did not realize that the tune, although common to European countries, was the same as England's "God Save the King". It was first sung in Boston at the Park Street Church on July 4, 1831.

"Nearer My God to Thee" was written by a banker, Lowell Mason, who, afraid that his musical tendencies would ruin his banking reputation, wrote under another name. "From Greenland's

^{25.} John Tasker Howard, OUR AMERICAN MUSIC, THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF IT, (New York, 1946), 117.

^{26.} IBID.,145.

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Icy Mountains", a missionary hymn is also the work of Mason.

Although Joseph Knight was an Englishman, he wrote the best known of his songs while on tour in America. Its title is "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep".

Thus we bring to a close the second hundred years of music known to our town, ending the music as it began on a religious note.

Schools in Charlestown

Thomas Tufts, a grandson of the Peter Tufts who first came to Charlestown, and brother of the Reverend John Tufts who wrote the Psalm Book was hired to:-

"keepe sd. school for one year to perfect Children in Reading & to learn them to write and Cipher and to Teach them Gramer for L40 per annum & to begin his work the last day of June".27

Since his grandfather had left him L40 a year it is not surprising that he taught but one year!

When a new building was needed, and schools wore out fast, contributions were made, such as "one offering a bell, others lime, brick, paint or stone, and a raising dinner".

It was not until 1736 that we find a reference to the part of Charlestown which became Somerville. The town voted L25 for a sum to be put into the hands of a committee "without the Neck" to provide a schoolmaster to instruct the children. From the

^{27.} Frank M. Hawes, "Charlestown Schools in the 18th Century", HISTORIC LEAVES, (Somerville) II, 3 (1903), 61.

and the second s and the second second . ! "Committees appointed for the school outside the neck, together with the annual appropriations" we gather that schools were set up at Milk Row and Alewife Brook. Since these points were poorly settled it is believed that an itinerant teacher took care of both as it was not possible for Milk Row children to travel so far, and vice versa.

Isaac Royall, the Royalist who later fled to England was so wealthy that he regularly gave his salary as Representative to the poor or needy. In 1745 he offered L80 for the use of the school, without the neck.

There is frequent mention of "visiting day" until 1775.

This meant that the minister and the selectmen would visit the schools to issue a warning to the pupils regarding their behavior. The record read:-

"Considering the disorder....not only on week days but on the Lord's Day, it was voted to visit the school every three months with one of the ministers.... Mr. Abbott exhorted them in a solemn manner & concluded with a prayer".28

From September 1, 1774, the day when Gage's men took the powder from the Powder House (in Somerville) until after the Battle of Bunker Hill excitement prevented regular school attendance. On April 19, 1775 the students were dismissed and school was closed. Since the four hundred buildings nearest Breed's Hill were destroyed the school house in Charlestown proper went

^{28.} Frank M. Hawes, "Charlestown Schools Within the Peninsula", HISTORIC LEAVES, (Somerville), III, 2(1904), 44.

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up in flames, too.

Apparently school kept as usual on Milk Row, despite the presence of an armed camp as we note from the original paper on exhibit in the Somerville Historical Society:-

Charlestown, Nov,13,1776 It is agreed that Mr. Timothy Tufts Receive Twenty Seven pound fifteen shillings L.W. of the monies Raised for schooling the Children Without the Neck.

(Signed) John Hay
Timothy Tufts
Walter Russell
Samuel Gardner

The holidays and vacations for the year 1820 were as follows:-

"Wednesday and Saturday afternoons....
The afternoon of the annual training in May.
General Election week, four days.
Artillery Day.
Commencement Day (Harvard) and the day following.
Day of military review....
From Wednesday noon preceding Thanks-giving to Monday following....
Christmas Day". 29

In general the outstanding remarks regarding education "Without the Neck" during the period from 1820 to 1842 are as follows:-

- 1. Each teacher seems to have had an average of seventy pupils.
 - 2. School was in session practically the year round.
- 3. Women were being hired in greater proportion than previously.

^{29.} Frank M. Hawes, "The Charlestown Schools", HISTORIC LEAVES, (Somerville), IV, 4 (1906), 92.

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- 4. Male teachers received three times as much salary as a female teacher.
- 5. Parents objected to the Wednesday half holiday as it caused the children to be less diligent.
- 6. No child was admitted without a vaccination slip after February 13, 1837.
- 7. Two new holidays were added, June 17, or Bunker Hill Day; and July 4th, Independence Day.

Trees, Weeds, and Flowers

One of the greatest differences between our town in colonial times and today is the lack of grazing land, woods, and
swamps. These were the source of trees which were cut for fuel
and floors; weeds which yielded useful medicines; and wild
flowers which filled May baskets.

The flora of Somerville still resembles that of colonial days. The juniper, birch, elm, oak, chestnut, beech, and maple were all trees which grew on dry glacial drumlins, which are the 30 hills of today. Even the sugar maple found on Chester and Putnam Streets yielded sap this Spring (1949). Forty quarts came from Chester Street maples alone. Other streets whose names are those of trees are:-Ash, Cedar, Cherry, Hawthorn, Laurel, Linden, Poplar, Sycamore, Walnut, and Willow. Of these, the cedar, elm, linden and willow have been found on streets bearing the names of such trees. A city-wide investigation would propably produce more.

30. Louise A. Vinal, "The Flora of Somerville", HISTORIC LEAVES, (Somerville), TV, 1, (1905), 6.

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Through the cooperation of our local newspaper we have found these weeds and flowers still growing in gardens of our oldest houses:-burdock, chickweed, dodder, mint, plantain, and violet. The fringed gentian, lady slipper, marigold, forget-me-not and columbine are the cultivated cousins of colonial gardens.

Naturally changes in the plant population have taken place due to crowded urban conditions.

Charlestown, "Within and Without the Neck"in 1834

The style of living was simple in 1834. Plain mahogany furniture was used; as well as open fireplaces for wood with grates for coal; and mirrors were considered such a luxury that only small ones were in use. Many of the houses had both flower, and vegetable gardens.

The population numbered 10,000 of which twelve were colored and hardly twice that number were of foreign birth. Ministers numbered eight; doctors, two; and lawyers totaled six in all.

Of public buildings there were eight meeting houses, nine primary schools, three reading and writing schools, and five fire stations. Two areas were set apart as burial grounds. Other buildings included a brewery, convent, tannery, library, pottery, newspaper, Navy yard, and State's Prison. By 1834 there were 277 convicts in the Prison. McLean Asylum which opened in 1818 had 1,015 patients by the year 1833.

While there were drunkards, there was also excellent attendance at church. Town meetings were large and noisy but public

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expenditure was moderate and "there was very little magnificent 31 public spirit supported by some other person's money".

In 1842 a portion of the town was incorporated (March 3) as the town of Somerville.

The Tufts in Somerville

When the Charlestown inhabitants, "Without the Neck", set themselves off in 1842 they decided, for no logical reason to call the area "Somerville". Rather than fit their fancy how much more appropriate it would have been to call it "Tuftstown" for the family who once owned more than a tenth of its soil.

"Tufts" were so numerous a hundred years ago that at an evening party on Winter Hill all seventy guests were "Tufts" or related to them. The seventy-five listed in a history of the Tufts family does not include the name of Vinal, Stone, Bonner, Loring, Fitz, and Raymond, names which recall streets to us today, but 32 all Tufts' kin.

Peter Tufts came to Charlestown from the village of Malden, England before 1638. He kept the "Penny Ferry", between Charlestown and Malden (where Malden Bridge is today) in 1647. He bought land in what is now Charlestown (Somerville), Everett, Medford, and Malden. At his death in 1700 he was the largest landholder in Malden where his and his wife's graves may be seen in Bell Rock Cemetery.

^{31.} Richard Frothingham, Jr., HISTORY OF CHARLESTOWN, (Charlestown, 1845), 38.

^{32.} Tufts Genealogy in NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER for July, 1897, Larkin T. Tufts & Edward C. Booth, M.D., eds.

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Photostatic copy of a deed of sale:
One wood lot by Gaudey James to Peter Tufts,
December 16, 1679.

Original deed in Somerville Historical Society.

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Photosis ite opy of a deed of sale:

One cood lot by Grudey James to Poter Tufts,

December 16, 1679.

Original deed in Somer ille Historical Society.



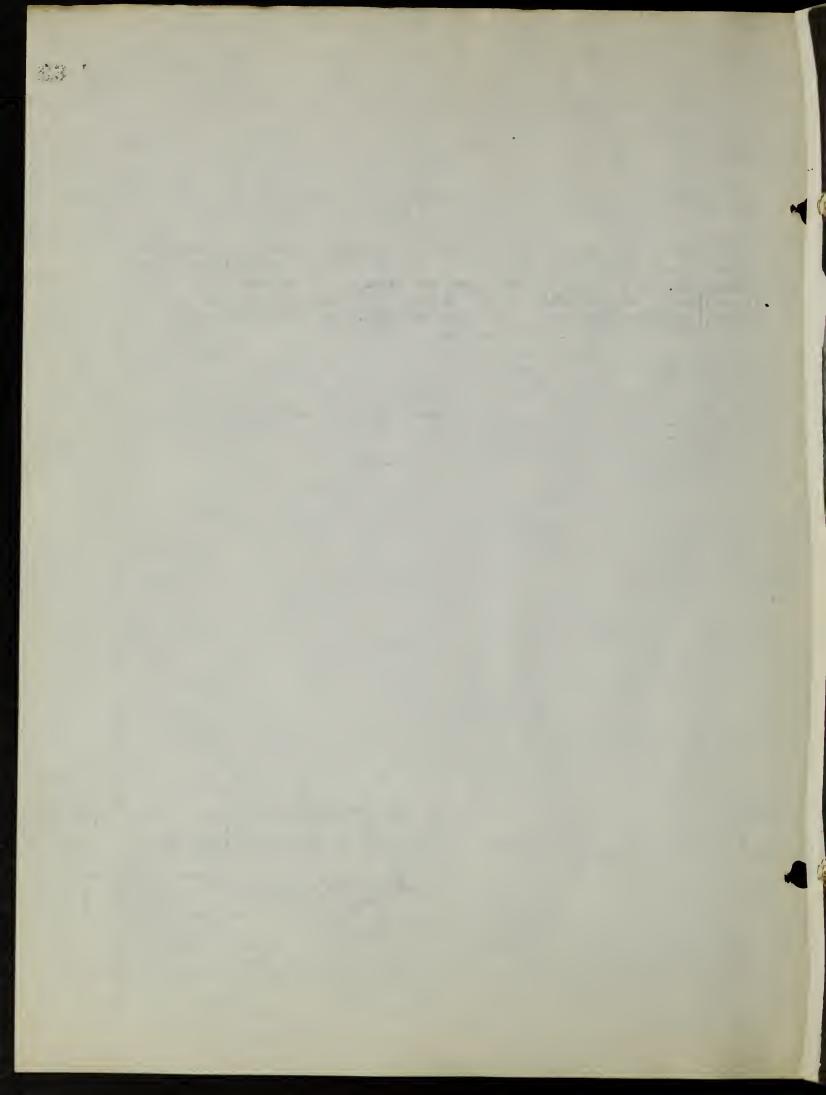


Know all men by these presents I Gaudey James of Boston in the County of Suffolk in the Colony of the Massachusetts in New England. For and in Consideration of a valuable sum of current moneys of New England, to me in hand well and truly paid is receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, and myself herewith to be fully satisfied, contented and

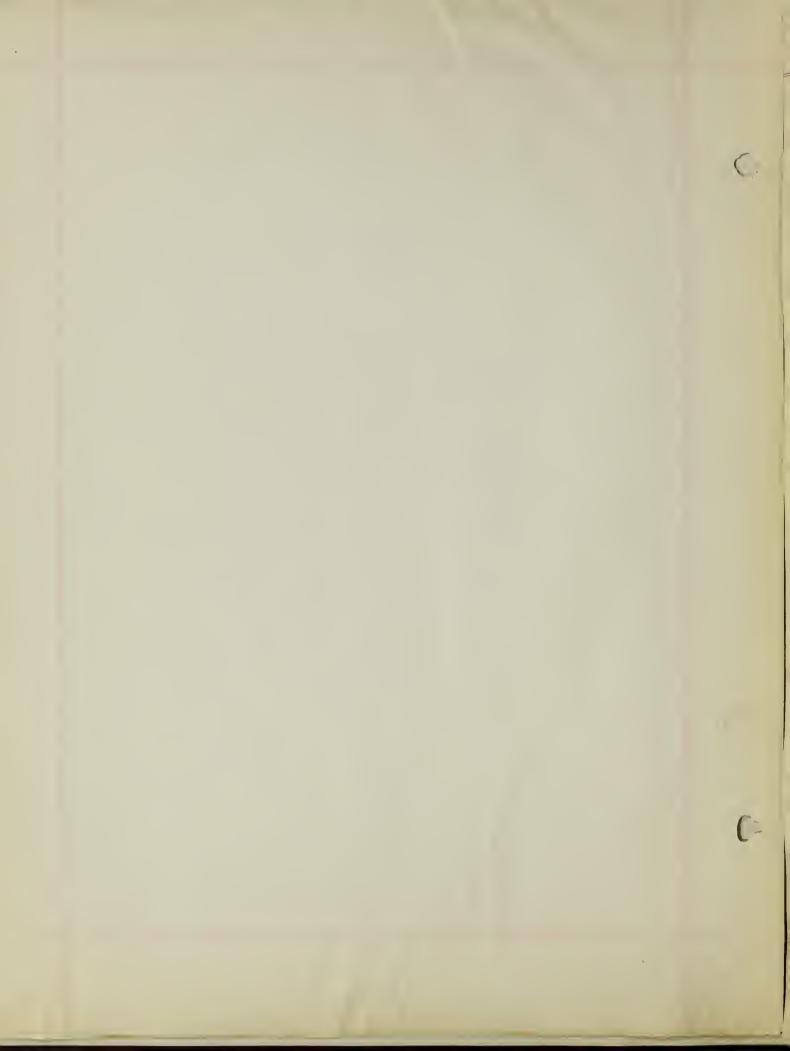
Gaudey James
Deed of Sale to Peter
Tufts

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Know all men I Gaudey James of Boston in the County of Suffolk in ve Colony of ve Massachusetts in New England, for and in consideration of a valuable sum of current moneys of New England, to me in hand well and truly paid by Peter Tufts of Charlestown in ye County of Middlesex in ye colony abovesaid, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge and myself herewith to be fully satisfied, contented and paid, in land, granted, bargained and sold, aliened, enfooted, and confirmed, and by these presents do fully and clearly and absolutely grant, bargain and sell, alien, enfoot and confirm unto him, ye said Peter Tufts one Wood Lott situate lying and being in Charlestown Further Common being in two Divisions containing three acres and a halfe in each division more or lesse being bounded by the Lott of ye Widow Frothingham on ye one side and the lott of John March on ye otherside with all ye privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining according to ye Town grant. To have and to hold ye said Lott in each division and every part and parcel thereof with all ye privileges lodged thereof as aforesaid to him ye said Peter Tufts his heirs and assigns forever to his and there own proper use and behoofe. And I, ye said Gaudey James by these presents do covenant, grant and promise for me, my heirs, executors, administrators and assignors to and with ye said Peter Tufts, his heirs, executors, administrators and assignors of, at ye ensealing hereof, I am and stand firmly possessed of ye abovesaid Wood Lott in a good and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple, and as I have good right, full powers and lawfull authority to grant, bargain, sell and dispose of land as abovesaid, And of ye said Peter Tufts, his heirs, executors, administrators and assignors, shall and may at all times, and from time to time forever hereafter peaceably and quietly have hold, occupy, possess and enjoy the above granted and bargained premises without ye Lett, Denial or Contradiction of me, ye said Gaudey James, or of Anna, my beloved wife, us, or heirs, or either of our heirs, or either of us (or them) or any other person or persons whatsoever, claiming and having any lawfull rights, title or interests there in by, from or under, and/or any other lawful way or means, and so I will acknowledge this grant or deed as the law requires for the confirmation of the same. In Witness whereof I, the said Gaudey James and Anna, my wife, in acknowledgement of her full consent to this my act and deed have thereunto set our hands and seals, this Sixteenth Day of December in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Six hundred and Seventy Nine. Signed Sealed and Delivered in presence of us

Mary Craft

Samuel Phipps

This Instrument acknowledged Gaudey James by Gaudey James as his act and his X mark Deed Eight of January 1679 before me

> Edmond Tyng Assize

Anna James her X mark

 Of his nine children we are most interested in John who was born in 1664. Everything "Tufts" in Somerville stems from him. John bought large tracts of land on which he established his sons, Peter, born in 1690 and Nathaniel, born in 1695. These sons lived and died on these farms and from them are descended nearly all the Tufts who ever lived in Somerville.

For memorials to the name "Tufts" in Somerville we have several houses, a street, a park, a D.A.R. Chapter, and a college.

Fortunately three Tufts houses are still standing. The first and the oldest house in Somerville, since it was built before 1701, belonged to Peter, known as "Peter of Milk Row" (now Somerville Avenue) and is located near Loring Street. Since his fourth son, Samuel, long survived his brothers it became known as the Samuel Tufts House and remained his home until his death in 1828 at the age of ninety. During the American Revolution General Nathaniel Greene used it as his headquarters and a marker designates that fact today.

"Peter of Milk Row" had a son Peter, who became known as

"Peter of Winter Hill". As was the custom among the Tufts clan

Peter of Winter Hill established his son John in a home on

Sycamore Street which was built just prior to the Revolution,

and became the headquarters for General Charles E. Lee commanding the left wing of the Continental Army. Because of this fact

33. Edward C. Booth, M.D. "The Tufts Family in Somerville",

HISTORIC LEAVES, (Somerville), I, 1, (1902), 21.

. The second sec 4 ----the same and the same of the s our second house is best known as the Charles E. Lee house, although is sometimes called the Oliver Tufts house, after a son of John, who was born in 1801, and lived there until his death in 1883.

The third "Tufts" house is well known to Somerville citizens as Dr. Place's Eye Infirmary and also the Doctor's home on the corner of Washington Street and McGrath Highway. That this is a Tufts house will surprise many as it has never been publicized as such. It was built by Nathan Tufts in 1818 who can be traced to "Peter of Milk Row" through his father, Daniel, and his grandfather, Nathaniel. Nathan's son, Judge Francis Tufts lived in this excellent example of colonial gambrel-roofed house until his death about forty years ago.

Tufts Street which runs from Washington Street to Cross
Street lies nearer the site of another Tufts homestead which was
razed in the last quarter of a century. In this house, the
almost identical copy of the Nathan Tufts house diagonally across
the street, lived another Nathan Tufts, who was born in 1764. He
left the land that he owned to his nephews, Charles and Nathan
(the Nathan named in the above paragraph) and Charles is remembered for his bequest of land now known as Tufts College. His
brother Nathan has his name commemorated in Nathan Tufts Park,
the landscaped area on which the Powder House stands. This
building was deeded to the City of Somerville in 1890 by the
descendants of Nathan Tufts. The square on which the park borders
once Tufts Square is now called Powder House Square.

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Adams-Magoun House

The Adams-Magoun house built in 1783 might also be called a "Tufts" house as it was built by Joseph Adams, whose wife Sally was a daughter of "Peter of Winter Hill" and Anne Adams 34 Tufts. Sally Adams gave a part of the land around this house for the first school on Winter Hill. Previously in this house was assembled on June 7, 1838, the first school in this part of Charlestown, "Without the Neck".

Surely Mrs. Adams was a worthy descendant of her heroic mother, who nursed British and American soldiers on Winter Hill during the Revolution.

The Adamses' daughter, Sarah, married John Magoun, a
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farmer, overseer of the poor, and a "fine pleasant neighbor".

Today their granddaughter, Mabel Fitz lives in the old homestead.

We can catch a glimpse of it through a letter sent by Miss Fitz
to this writer:-

"Some of the timbers in the house were taken from the Winter Hill Fort after the Revolution...The fanlight in the front door has been cited as one of the finest in Greater Boston. A brick oven, in what was formerly the kitchen, often had a dozen pies baked at one time. A box-bordered path used to lead to a vine-covered arbor...Cone flowers ...have grown in this garden. Chickweed is still in evidence, also sorrel. A fine well of water was for many years patronized by passersby who used to stop at the pump back of the house".

^{34.} Map of farm by Peter Tufts, Jr. (1815) displayed in Somerville Historical Society.

^{35.} Helen M. Despaux, "John S. Edgerly", HISTORIC LEAVES, (Somerville), III, 2, (1904), 40.

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The Old Middlesex Canal

If we had lived in 1842 the sight of a stream of water, thirty feet wide, wending its way through Somerville from the Charles River in Boston, to the Merrimac River in Lowell, would have been a familiar picture. This was the Middlesex Canal, a pioneer in the history of cheap water transportation since it was started as early as 1794. This twenty-seven mile waterway was the scheme of James Sullivan, an attorney general who later became Governor of Massachusetts. He and Loammi Baldwin, the superintendent of construction, had planned to connect Boston, not only with the Merrimac country but with Montreal through the Connecticut River, Lake Champlain, and the St. Lawrence River. They succeeded in connecting only the capitals of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, a distance of eighty-five miles, as the work involved in crossing the mountain, as well as the advent of the railroad, prevented their plans from maturing.

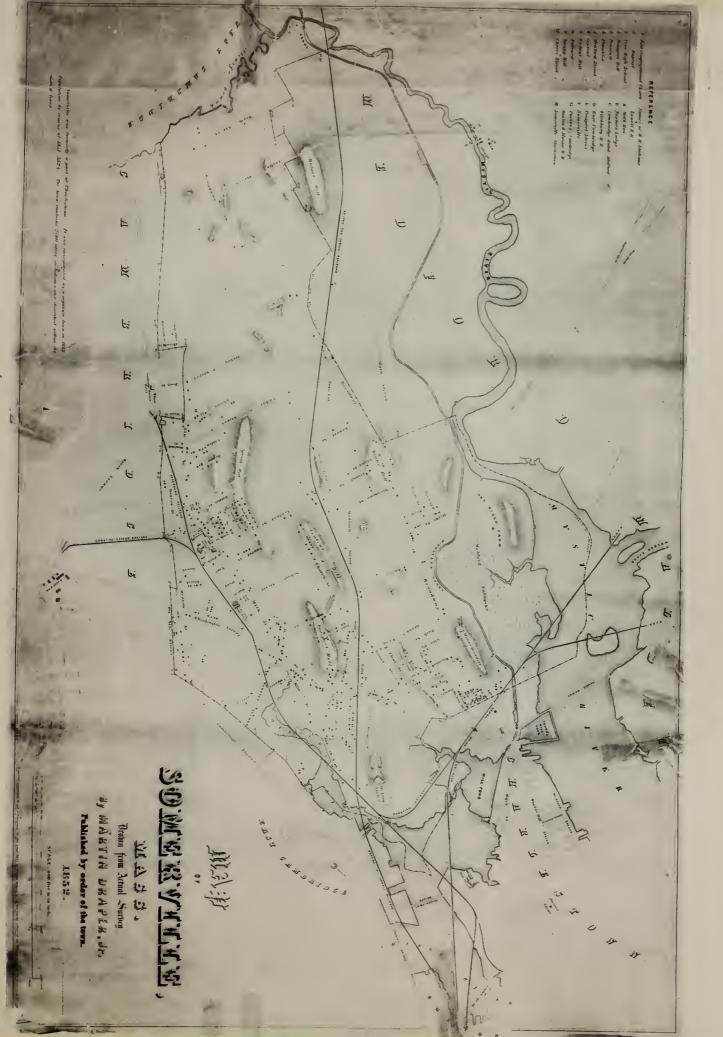
For the student interested in tracing its course through the City of Somerville today we quote from Herbert Pierce Yeaton's historical account:-

"The line of the old canal passed the Royall House (in Medford), and sent off a branch to the river for the benefit of the ship-yards of Medford and Charles-town; and so on through the Mystic trotting park to the base of Winter Hill, Somerville. From this point the canal followed the line of the high land around to the short bend in the Mystic River... then to the south through nearly the center of Broadway Park, aroundthe base of Mount Benedict, now all dug away, across

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Photostatic copy of a map of Somerville, 1852, by Martin Draper, Jr. The route of the Middlesex Canal can be seen above center.

Photostatic copy of a mrp of om rville, 1852, by march rater, Jr. The route of the hidlest Canal can be seen above center.





the foot of Austin Street, running nearly parallel to Main Street in Charlestown, to the Charles River and on to Canal Street in Boston."

Let us take a trip from Boston to Middlesex Village (Chelmsford) on a passage boat. It will cost seventy-five cents for the twelve hour long trip on the GOVERNOR SULLIVAN. As the horse tows us, at four miles an hour, we pass countryside filled with wild shrubbery, flowers, and willows until we arrive at a toll gate or a lock. Occasionally a merchandise boat would pass us, its skipper and two bowmen busy rowing, if the weather is calm, or resting, if the weather is rough and right for sailing. We can easily see the goods they are carrying to the capital of New Hampshire, as the seventy-five foot craft passes by salt, lime, cement, plaster, hardware, leather, liquors, iron, glass, grindstones, paints and oils. If it is Sunday, people are strolling along or eating a picnic lunch on the tow-path but they must watch out that they do not get hit by an apple or a stone. The tow-horse, being without a driver, sometimes stops to nibble grass. A well-placed stone or apple would startle the horse into a run. Twenty locks (because of a 104 foot difference in the heights of the rivers) and fifty bridges in the twenty-seven mile trip keep us constantly alert and the sight of a raft carrying oak and pine to the shipyards on the Mystic River, and granite and farm produce

^{36.} Herbert Pierce Yeaton, "Historical Sketch of the Middlesex Canal," HISTORIC LEAVES, (Somerville), III, 1, (1904).3.

^{37.} Yeaton, "Middlesex Canal," II, 3, (1903), 56

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to Boston were an interesting sight. Oxen were used to pull the raft.

Forty years the canal hummed with activity from Spring until cold weather froze it solid, thereby making it possible for a person to skate to Woburn and beyond.

As early as 1808 the Canal suffered by the deaths of both Governor Sullivan and Loammi Baldwin. Then there was a general depression in business due to the Embargo Act and the War of 1812. Finally repairs and the appearance of the railroad, the Boston to Lowell branch of the Boston and Maine, rendered the "road" impractical. It was proposed to use the water canal as an aqueduct for Boston's 100,000 population who were dependent upon wells but this scheme, which would have placed a reservoir on Mount Benedict in Somerville, was abandoned and on April 4, 1852 the last canal boat was run on the canal by Joel Dix of Billerica.

Again this area is being discussed as the Mystic River Dam project gets underway. This \$3,000,000 flood control project which calls for the construction of a dam and lock across the Mystic River from Medford to Somerville just north of the Wellington Bridge will create an esplanade as well, similar to the one in the Charles River Basin. Somerville plans to construct a park in the once marsh sections. The area of the Mystic River which may become a park was once the summer home of Governor John Winthrop, "The Ten Hills Farm". In this 300th year of his death it would be fitting if the park could be named in his honor.

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The War of 1812

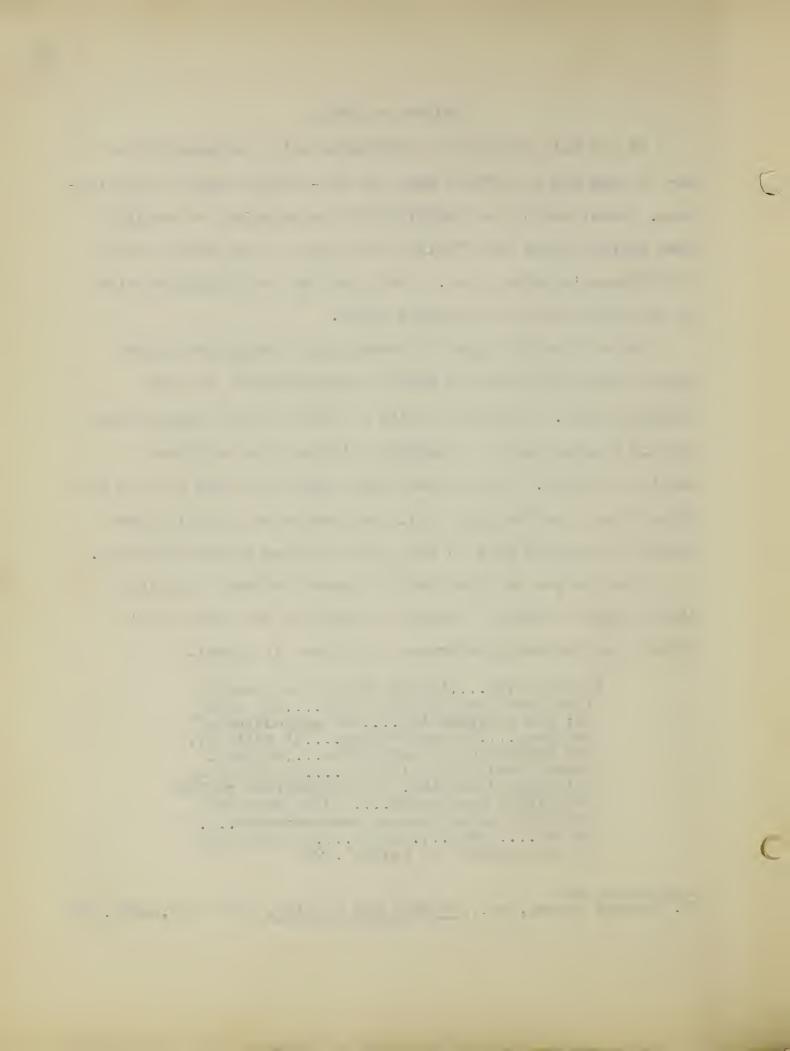
We can well imagine the depression which accompanied the War of 1812 and its effect upon the sea-faring people of Charlestown. Even though the "CONSTITUTION" was winning on the high seas those at home were feeling the pinch of the after effects of Jefferson's Embargo Act. Its effect on the freight carried on the Middlesex Canal has been noted.

The outstanding topic of conversation among Charlestown people during this "Second War for Independence" was the "CONSTITUTION". Although she did not win the war single-handed she did greater damage to English shipping than any other American frigate. Charlestown people must have seen her set out three times from the Navy Yard, now located where Paul Revere rowed with muffled oars in 1775, and all knew of her victories.

From the pen of Peter Parley (Samuel Griswold Goodrich) a highly popular author of books for children both here and in England the following reference to the War is taken:-

"I pass over...things still in my memory: the gloom that spread as the...war drew on; the bankruptcies...the suspension of payments...the scarcities...of articles, the stagnation of trade; the...anxiety, poverty and disappointment...the hells of drinking, deception, and degradation called recruiting rendezvous...I pass over the patriotic pulsations of the democracy... as the... army...passed...on their way to the Conquest of Canada". 38

^{38.} Barrows Mussey, ed., WE WERE NEW ENGLAND, (New York, 1937), 335



The Burning of the Mount Benedict Ursuline Community House

"Nothing extenuate

Nor set down aught in malice"

Othello

"The reader should remember that there are various angles from which the burning.... may be viewed. It is....a chapter of church history....it is a manifestation of the power of propaganda, and of mob psychology. It....is a study in municipal government and judicial procedure". 39

With this apt quotation from Shakespeare as an introduction and these three viewpoints to consider, George Hill Evans, the historian librarian of Somerville has introduced his excellent monograph on the burning of the Nunnery, a touchy topic upon which to write; one avoided, in full, in most references to the city of Somerville.

It was on August 11, 1834 that the Ursuline Community House on Ploughed (Plowed) Hill was looted and burned by a mob.

In 1834 Charlestown had a population of 10,000 people. It was not a rich town, by standards of those days, or today. Life was simple and luxuries were an unknown quantity. Even a mirror of any considerable size was unknown, and it is assumed that tubs of water served to cast a reflection.

"Beyond the Neck" to the north and west was a section

^{39.} George Hill Evans, "THE BURNING OF THE MOUNT BENEDICT URSULINE COMMUNITY HOUSE", (Somerville, 1934), 3

* A A A 4 ? T . sparsely occupied with homes, farms, clay pits, and quarries.

Kilns of the brick makers were a familiar sight. Here Ploughed

Hill, referred to as a part of the fortifications against the

British was plainly visible.

The name of the hill was changed, in 1820, to Mount
Benedict when the Ursulines bought the property. It is hard for
us to see the scene today. Only the height of Austin Street is
left to give us any idea of its former beauty, as the hill was
leveled to use the land as a fill for the marshes now occupied
by the Ford plant. The Mystic River, and salt marshes in the
rear, and the Middlesex Canal in the foreground of the hill set
it off well. Vines, orchards, gardens and terraced landscaping
met the eye.

The brick convent had three stories as well as two wings with several long flights of steps leading down to Broadway. The grounds were well kept with flowers, shrubs, and trees along walks and drives.

The Order of Ursula, under the auspices of the Catholic Church had established the convent in 1827 with twelve sisters in charge and three more women in attendance. Girls only were admitted, and their ages ranged from six to fourteen. The descriptive pamphlet listed a variety of subjects and a curriculum to be envied by present day standards. Twenty-nine courses were listed on report cards which were sent home. John S. Hayes has noted the studies:-

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"They said that the teachers (nuns) spare no pains to adorn the minds of their pupils with useful knowledge and to form their heart to virtue. The studies included English, French, Latin, and if required, Spanish and Italian; history, ancient and modern; chronology; mythology; geography; the use of globes; astronomy; composition; poetry: rhetoric: logic; metaphysics; arithmetic and geometry; together with every kind of useful and ornamental needlework; painting in oil colors; painting on velvet, satin, and wood, and drawing; music, vocal and instrumental; and dancing".40

The school was patronized by wealthy Protestant and Catholic families and at the time of the fire there were forty-four pupils of which three-fourths were of the Protestant faith. They represented the length, if not the breadth of the land as their homes were in Maine, Georgia, Louisiana, Canada, Puerto Rico, as well as Boston and the surrounding towns.

Evans feels, one hundred years later, that we would find it difficult to believe that people could become so inflamed by wild rumor and propaganda. He blames two groups of Protestant people in the community; the local brick makers, a temporary population who led a dull life socially, and who grasped at any opportunity for excitement; and the local gossips. crowds were encouraged by sermons preached by "an eminent divine" (not named by Evans) who attacked the Catholic Church. He was considered the most powerful pulpit orator of his day. The parents of this faith whose children attended this school were 40. John S. Hayes, "Mount Benedict and Ursuline Convent", THE

SOMERVILLE JOURNAL SOUVENIR OF THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL, (Somerville, 1892).8.

^{41.} Evans, "THE BURNING OF MOUNT BENEDICT".8.

. much more broadminded than the local citizens. That any trouble was brewing was apparently unknown to them as several families visited their daughters on that fateful Sunday of August 11,1834.

There are three women about whom this tale revolves. Sister Mary Edmond St. George, the Superior of the Convent; Rebecca Theresa Reed, who wrote "Six Months in a Convent", and Sister Mary John (nee Elizabeth Harrison) the "Mysterious Lady", a nun in Mount Benedict.

"Sister Mary Edmond St. George was a woman of masculine appearance and character, high-tempered, resolute, defiant, with a stubborn imperious will. Her aloofness both of nature and of vocation was clearly misunderstood and resented by the easy-going villagers....They respected her for her attainments and integrity, and admitted that she was a good neighbor. Her reports, signed "The Superior" in a firm and regular hand and her diction, crisp and business-like reveals an executive mind". 42

Rebecca Theresa Reed published a book "Six Months in a Convent", which was supposed to be an expose! of conditions there. Sister Mary Edmond St. George matched it with an "Answer to Six Months in a Convent", which was such an excellent account that Evans avers. "

"The Boston Transcript, never accused of being pro-Catholic witheringly remarked, 'Miss Reed's book is knocked into pi', which is a newspaperman's way of saying that it was completely discredited".43

^{42.} IBID.,8.

^{43.} IBID.,10.

· Vi-The same of the sa . . 1 1 . T T n 2 4 A Sister Mary John, the "Mysterious Lady" could have been the crux of the whole matter as she was said to be mentally ill and unstable in temperament and emotions. Gossipers spread the tale that she was being held against her will; hidden away; or even murdered!

On Sunday, August 11, 1834 posters appeared all over town saying:-

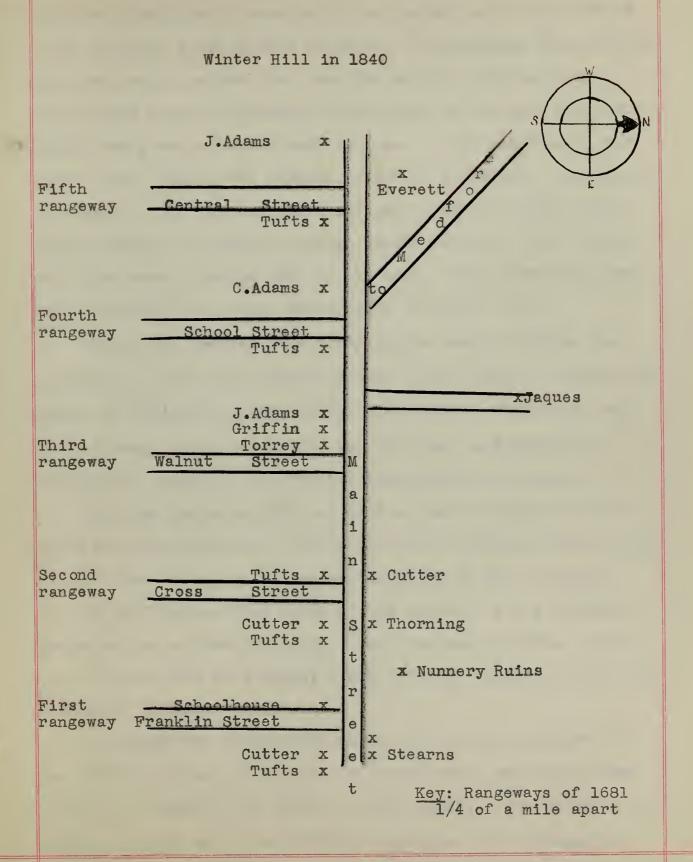
"To the Selectmen of Charlestown! Gentlemen-It is currently reported that a mysterious affair has recently happened at the Nunnery in Charlestown, now it is your duty gentlemen to have this affair investigated immediately, if not the Truckmen of Boston will demolish the Nunnery Thursday night August 14". 44

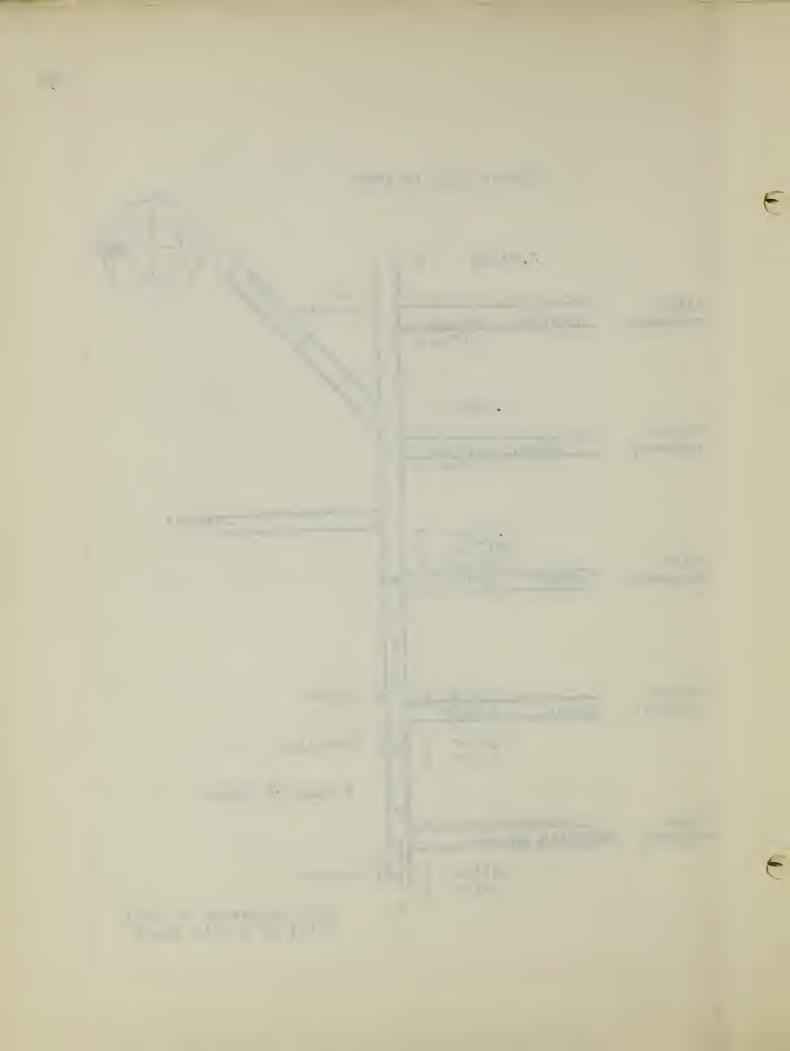
The selectmen paid a visit to the Convent; found everything in order, and made a report that "the young lady in question to 45 be entirely satisfied with her present situation". Within a few hours after their visit, but before the report could be known to the general public the riot had started.

Shortly after nine o'clock in the evening of that same day (parents had visited daughters; posters had been tacked in prominent places; and the Selectmen had met) loiterers gathered around the convent, tore down a fence and started a bonfire. The Superior had asked them to leave previous to this and she then appealed to the one policeman the village boasted but he could apparently do nothing with the crowd so he went home to bed. As

^{44.} IBID.,10.

^{45.} IBID.,11.





the fire burned the firebells of Charlestown were rung, and as if by a signal 4,000 people gathered. Fire-engines from Charlestown and Boston arrived but they did nothing, whether from a prearranged plan or because of the height of the hill which was beyond the power of their hand engines. Clubs and stones were thrown and finally the rioters entered the Convent. Meanwhile, the Superior had led her staff and pupils to the garden where Edward Cutter, a neighbor (Cutter Street marks his farm today) took them over a garden wall to his home. From there they were later conducted to Joseph Adams house on Winter Hill.

While the inmates were escaping the whole building was ransacked, looted, and finally set on fire. Even the cross, the symbol of Christianity was burned with Bibles, vestments, and altar linens. All that night, the next day, and night the destruction went on. No official interference was made.

Why the Selectmen did not send a squad of police to the scene has been hinted at. There was but one officer, and he was on part time duty. He had so little to do in this peaceful village that he was also Clerk of the Market. A few watchmen patrolled the streets at night. They carried lanterns, staves (the curved wood of a barrel), and a rattle (which preceded the whistle of today).

Although the Charlestown Selectmen offered a reward for the capture of the guilty parties (whose names were well known to all) it remained for Boston to investigate. Boston had forty papers, nine of which were daily newspapers, and although the the state of the s .

news on the next day was very meager before the week was over feeling ran high.

Bishop Fenwick called a meeting of Catholics at the Franklin Street Church in Boston, and finished his talk by an excerpt from the sermon on the Mount; that of returning good for evil.

Finally, months later twelve were accused and all acquitted except one. He, a seventeen year old boy named Marcy, one of the "Knownothing" mob, was released after seven months of a life sentence. Bishop Fenwick and Sister Mary Edmond St. George had intervened in his behalf.

Although the damage was set at \$50,000, none of which was ever paid to the Catholic Church; the laxity of the law as regards the appearance of key witnesses; the failure of officers to discharge duties; in not providing for losses from riots; and inadequate police power to enforce the law, were condemned and recommendations made for improvement.

The ruins of the burned convent, actually seen by people living today, remained a reproach to false gossip and prejudice.

Personalities from the Past

President Washington in Somerville

George Washington visited Somerville again in 1789 and from his own diary we quote:-

"Left Boston about 8 o'clock. Passed over the Bridge at Charlestown and went to see

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that at Malden, but proceeded to the College at Cambridge, attended by the Vice-President, Mr. Bowdoin and gentlemen".46

Later he mentions:- "After leaving Cambridge, at the distance of 47. four miles, we passed through Mystic".

Evans feels that there is little doubt of the route he took as there was only one way, the route that Revere intended to take when he swerved off to avoid the British, i.e. up Washington Street (then Cambridge Road) to Prospect Street to Inman Square thence to Harvard, but the presence of a Tory home, Inman's, might influence the Union Square and Kirkland Street route to Harvard College.

As to the Mystic Route, Evans feels that Washington took
Massachusetts Avenue because it was well traveled, to College
Avenue (Somerville) to Main Street, Medford.

Marquis de Lafayette Came to Town

The Governor's proclamation on Lafayette Day (May 20) means more to us when we realize that he came to Somerville in the days when it was still Charlestown. It was in 1825 that the gallant Frenchman rode from Boston to Cambridge by way of Milk Row (Somerville Avenue). Elbridge S. Brooks, teacher and Librarian for the City of Somerville quotes his grandmother's diary:-

^{46.} George Hill Evans, GEORGE WASHINGTON IN SOMERVILLE, (Somer-ville, 1933), 12.

^{47.} IBID.,12.

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"He rode in a barouche, drawn by four white horses, and for some reason, the whole line of carriages stopped. We two little girls took off our cape bonnets and waved them at lafayette, whereupon the little old man bent forward, with all the grace of a Frenchman and bowed to us".48

Colonel Samuel Jaques

"Ten Hills Farm", the former home of Winthrop became the Jaques estate in 1834. Colonel Samuel Jaques had lived in Charlestown, "Within the Neck", since he was a boy, and was well known for his colorful personality. Interests in a West Indies goods business netted him so much money that he had time for such hobbies as hunting, farming, and entertaining. At his Charlestown home, near the Prison, and later at "Ten Hills" he kept thoroughbred horses, cattle, sheep, birds, dogs, and even buffalo, of which he had two.

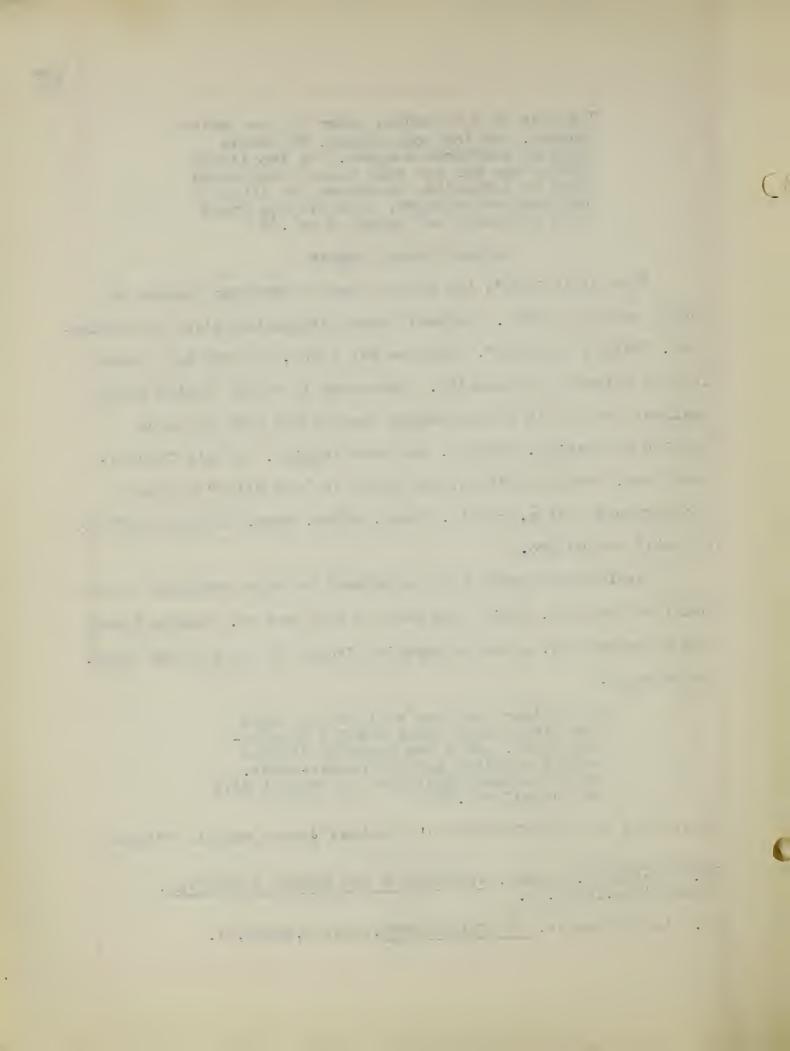
Charlestown people were accustomed to being awakened by the sound of the horn, music that meant a hunt was on. George Tapley a Charlestown boy, often accompanied Jaques on his hunting trips. He relates:-

"Oftentimes the dogs would be let into the fields soon after leaving Charlestown Neck, and a fox would be started before reaching the old powder-house. Then the chase would be over Walnut Hill on to Medford". 49

Dressed in true British hunter's clothes Jaques and his friends

^{48.} Elbridge S. Brooks, HANDBOOK OF THE HISTORIC FESTIVAL, (Somerville, 1898),51.

^{49.} Timothy Sawyer, OLD CHARLESTOWN, (Boston, 1902), 61.



would ride the hounds to Woburn, where at the "Black Tavern" dinner would be served the weary sportsmen.

As a farmer his name was known throughout the country. His "Jaques Admirable" peaches were a famous brand, and "Jaques Cream 50 Pot" was the name of an extraordinary milk cow which he bred. Butter was churned from the cream of this cow in thirty seconds by Jaques' daughter in a demonstration made at the State House before the Governor and members of the Legislature. It has been said that cream from this stock separated and formed butter simply by the motion of the carriage in the five mile trip from Ten Hills to Dorchester.

In 1840 the first ourang-outang known to America was on exhibit in Boston. When the monkey became ill the Colonel was called upon to see if he could make him well. He had a two floor dwelling made for the animal and after a year the monkey was restored to health.

The Colonel claimed that he could put the name "Jaques" in white feathers on the back of a hen. However, he did cross a red and white cow with a pure-bred Durham short-horned bull, and in thirty-seven years produced a pair of twin heifers which were without a white hair, with the characteristics of both breeds, but with short horns. They were born on the morning of his death. After hearing of their birth he had them brought to his bed, where he had lain for months following a fall from his

^{50.} J. R. Dodge, "Jaques 'Cream Pot Stock'", UNITED STATES DEPART MENT OF AGRICULTURE, (Washington, D.C., 1925), 1.

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horse, he looked the heifers over carefully, relaxed on his pillow, and died a few hours later.

The Colonel, who gained his title during the War of 1812, entertained many famous people, among whom were: - Marquis de Lafayette, Henry Clay, Rufus Choate and Daniel Webster. Lafayette was his guest on two occasions when he visited Charlestown in connection with the laying of the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill monument on June 17, 1825.

Daniel Webster, who admired a suit of Jaques, asked if he could have one made like it. Jaques jokingly reminded him not to forget to pay the tailor. The suit was made but the bill was never paid.

Charles Forster

Those who attend the Charles Forster school will be interested to know that the man for whom it was named was considered a very kind person who showed sympathy for the poor by generous gifts to them. His furniture business was located on Main Street in Charlestown but he moved to Winter Hill later. His father, Old Jacob Forster did some strange things such as covering a roof with hides with the hair on as he thought the rain would run off as on a cow's back. He didn't realize the effect of the hot sunshine on it! Need we say more? Another amusing thing was the floor of his brick-oven. This was an old grave-stone. When the bread was baked it read in reverse:
"Sacred to the memory of....!!" 51

^{51.} Timothy T. Sawyer, OLD CHARLESTOWN, (Boston, 1902), 154. See this for further amusing anecdotes.

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Charles Forster lived on Winter Hill Road (Broadway) in 1842 and his contemporary - Aaron Sargent calls him "as saintly a person as ever walked the earth". His religion was a reality, and not a pretense or a cover. It was related by a Charlestown baker that his bill against Mr. Forster in one year for bread was over four hundred dollars, not one loaf of which went to his 52 own house.

Town of Warren

The people living "outside the Neck" were an industrious group whose income was obtained from the soil by brick-making, farming, and producing milk for the Boston market. But they were not benefiting from the taxes paid in Charlestown as much as their "within the Neck" neighbors. In 1828 those living beyond the "Neck" sent a petition to the Legislature asking that they be incorporated as the town of "Warren", in honor of the hero who lost his life at the Battle of Bunker Hill, Joseph Warren. The attempt failed.

Town of Somerville

By 1842 the rural "outside the Neck" section had lost part of its population to West Cambridge. Conditions were still poor as we had only four one storied school houses, a pound (which also served as a jail), and one fire station equipped with a tub engine. There was no church, minister, or doctor. Although we

^{52.} Aaron Sargent, "The Winter Hill Road in 1842", HISTORIC LEAVES, (Somerville), I, 3, (1902), 21.

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had three taverns previous to this time there were none in 1842. Even John Ireland's grocery on Milk Row, our one and only store, had burned down. However, we had great possibilities in a bleaching establishment, two twine and rope factories, and a pottery concern. Some alewives and smelts were sold from brooks such as the Alewife Brook.

Colonel Asa Prichard, who lived on Washington Street, was credited with starting the idea of Somerville becoming a separate town. He stormed into the office of Charles Gilman one day and exclaimed that he was "disgusted at living in such a neglected and undesirable part of Charlestown, and that he would pay no more taxes". A meeting of indignant inhabitants, spurred on by the thought of poor school facilities, the distance from the center of government, and taxation for improvements enjoyed by "within the Neck" people alone, resulted in a petition being drawn. Guy Hawkins and one hundred and fifty-one others presented it to the Legislature. After much deliberation it was approved by the governor on March 3, 1842. On hearing the good news a salute of one hundred guns was fired from Prospect Hill and a huge ball was held in Gilman Square attended by over three hundred people. The population of the new town was 1,013.

At a meeting in the Prospect Hill School, which was then located at the junction of Cross, Medford, and Shawmut Streets,

^{53.} Edward C. Booth, "The New Town", SOMERVILLE JOURNAL SOUVENIR, (Somerville, 1892),9.

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James Miller, son of the James Miller who was "too old to run" from the British, suggested the name of "Somerville" simply because it struck his fancy. The name was adopted.

Cultural Background of the Period

As we leave Somerville on the threshold of her first year as a town we stop to consider one more phase of social history, the cultural background of the period from 1742 to 1842. For the most part the artists and authors were from New England, and Boston's share was a creditable one.

Among the artists were Benjamin West, John S. Copley,
Gilbert Stuart, and John Trumbull. Copley and Stuart, (who
painted the portraits of Washington) were both born in Boston,
whereas Trumbull studied in the capital city.

The early nineteenth century authors included Washington
Irving, whose "Rip Van Winkle" is still popular today; and James
Fenimore Cooper who wrote, "The Spy". Two poets were Boston
born, Edgar Allen Poe, who penned "Annabel Lee"; and Ralph Waldo
Emerson, later the "Sage of Concord". Other New England authors
known to Charlestown people through their writings were Henry
Wadsworth Longfellow, who immortalized Paul Revere; William
Cullen Bryant, who composed "To A Waterfowl", Henry David
Thoreau who produced "Walden"; and Hawthorne, Holmes, and Lowell.
The creative work of the last three authors, linked with the
literary efforts of a fourth, John Greenleaf Whittier, presents
a true picture of New England culture.

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A Guide Post to Somerville's Historic Landmarks
Hills

Ploughed Hill or Mt. Benedict

This hill, which has been levelled, was on the north side of Broadway. Now known as the Nunnery Ground. Tablet on site of Ursuline Convent.

Cobble Hill or Asylum Hill

This hill, which has been levelled, is occupied by the Boston and Maine Railroad, on the south side of Somerville.

Prospect Hill

This hill, east of Walnut Street has an imposing tower as a monument to the men of the American Revolution, the British prisoners, and Civil War soldiers.

Central Hill

Site of Somerville High School, City Hall, Central Library.

Part of French Redoubt in American Revolution.

Spring Hill

The "Round House" on Atherton Street is an interesting attraction.

Clarendon Hill

Site, nearby, of early Alewife Brook Schoolhouse.

Winter Hill

Summit of Broadway (Winter Hill Road). Route of Paul Revere.

College Hill (Tufts College)

Walnut Tree Hill was its title during early days. Twentytwo cities may be seen from this point.

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Paul Revere's Route

Tablet: At the Somerville-Charlestown line on Washington Street is a marker designating the point where the British intercepted Paul Revere unsuccessfully.

Tablet: At the junction of Broadway and Main Street in Paul Revere Park, known as the "smallest park in the world". This is also the site of the Odin home where Edward Everett lived, 1826-1830, while he was a member of Congress. The ill-fated Dr.Park-1. man once owned the property.

Route of the British

After crossing the Charles River they landed at what is now the East Cambridge Court House and came to Washington Street through Prospect Street, then through Bow to "Milk Row" (Somer-ville Avenue). They passed the Samuel Tufts house, and stopped to drink at the well of Timothy Tufts, which was located at the corner of Willow Avenue and Elm Street. They then followed Beech Street into Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge.

Tablet: Near Willow Avenue on Elm Street marks graves of British killed in skirmish at this point on their return from Concord.

Tablet: Near Pope School marks place where James Miller was shot by the British after his last words: "I am too old to run!"

^{1.} Cleveland Amory, THE PROPER BOSTONIANS, (New York, 1947), 207

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Colonial Houses

Samuel Tufts House

Built before 1701, and located on Somerville Avenue near

Loring Street. Headquarters of Nathaniel Greene, General in command of Rhode Island troops during siege of Boston.

Oliver Tufts House

Considered "new" in 1775, and located on Sycamore Street.

Headquarters of Charles E. Lee, Major-General commanding left

wing of the American Army.

Anne Adams Tufts House

Only the doorstone of her home is left. It is a part of a monument located in Paul Revere Park at the junction of Broadway and Main Street.

Judge Francis Tufts House

Built in 1818 and located at the junction of Monsignor Mc Grath Highway and Linwood Street. It is the office and home of Dr Ralph Place. Nearby is the site of the Charles Tufts home, the founder of Tufts College. This house, which was on the north side of Washington Street, west of the Boston and Maine Railroad was razed within the last twenty-five years.

Adams-Magoun House

Built in 1783, located on Broadway beyond Central Street.

It is occupied by descendants of original owners.

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Powder House

The Powder House is located in Nathan Tufts Park off Powder House Square. It is the scene of one of the earliest hostile acts in the Revolution when General Gage's men seized the powder in 1774.

Ten Hills Farm

John Winthrop's summer home is marked by a tablet located on the grounds of the Grimmons School. This is also the site of Sir Robert Temple's mansion which was built on the site of Governor Winthrop's home. Colonel Jaques later bought Temple's home.

Tablet: On Mystic Avenue where ancient wharf was located on south shore of Mystic River. Winthrop launched the "BLESSING OF THE BAY". The British landed here enroute to seize powder.

The Old Cemetery

The only cemetery in Somerville is located on Somerville

Avenue opposite School Street. It was deeded by Samuel Tufts in

1804 as a burying place. The Milk Row School was located on a

corner of the lot from 1736 until it was burned in 1849, it is

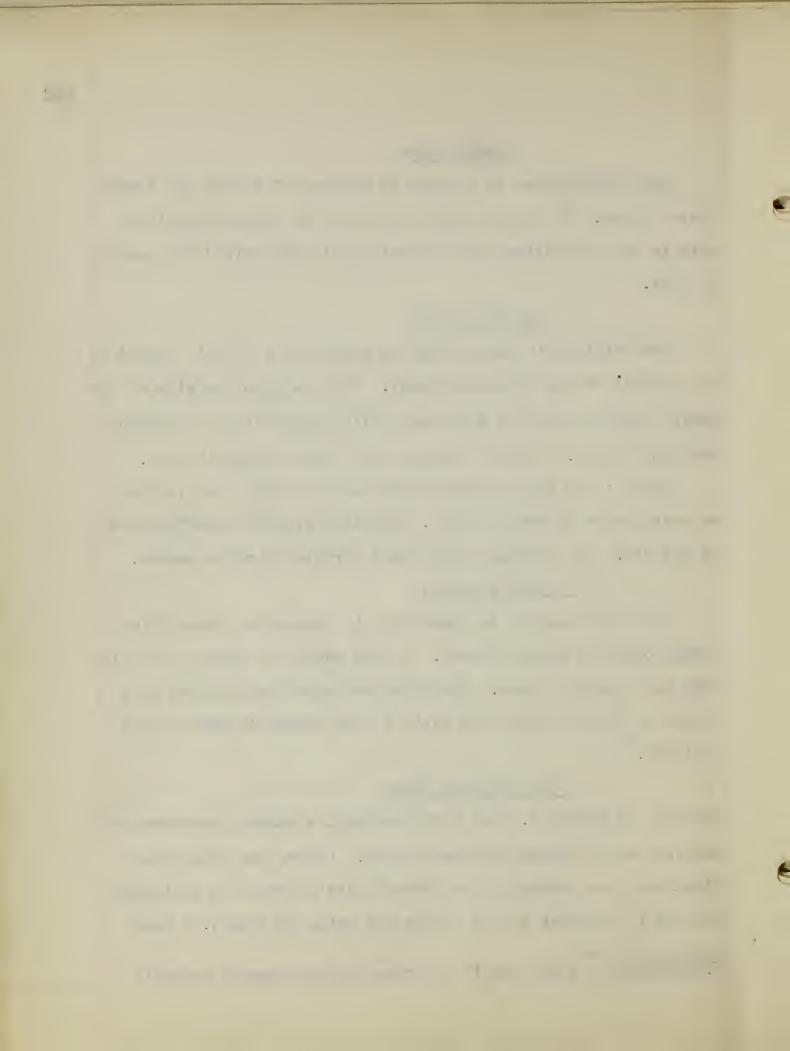
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The Middlesex Canal

Tablet: In Saxton C. Foss Park, Broadway, a marker describes the section as the former Middlesex Canal. Later, the people who lived here were moved to the "Patch" (land between the Lexington and Lowell branches of the Boston and Maine Railroad), to make way for the Park.

2. Cemetery for World War II veterans has been opened recently.



SUGGESTED PUPIL ACTIVITIES

- Write a local history of your school, street, church, square, or club. Illustrate it, if possible with maps, sketches, letters, photographs, diaries, logs, poems, and clippings.
- 2. Present a pageant in costume to celebrate "Thanksgiving Day in Colonial Charlestown"; "The Puritan's Christmas Day" (contrast with today); "Fast Day"; "Election Day"; or "Training Day".
- 3. Dramatize the arrival of Governor Winthrop in Charlestown; the launching of the BLESSING OF THE BAY; or John Winthrop lost in Ten Hills.
- 4. Organize a "Know Your City Club" through your school, club, church, or recreation organization.
- 5. Plan a field trip to "Pioneer Village" in Salem; to "Plimoth Plantation, Incorporated", Plymouth, Massachusetts; to Peter Tufts House (1634), Riverside Avenue, Medford; or to Isaac Royall House (part of the Winthrop estate) on George Street, Medford.
- 6. Visit the following with camera or drawing materials: Phipps Burying Ground, Phipps Street, Charlestown; Old Granary Burying Ground, Boston; King's Chapel Burying Ground; Somerville Cemetery, Somerville Avenue; or John Sagamore's Burial Monument, Sagamore Road, Medford.
- 7. Draw a map of Somerville in 1742 and place crosses to designate the location of the following markers: John Winthrop's home near the Grimmons School; BLESSING OF THE BAY on Mystic

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- Avenue; John Woolrich's home on corner of Washington and Dane Streets.
- 8. Museum Day: Bring stamps, pictures, models, diaries, and antiques to commemorate a specific holiday.
- 9. Cartoons: Illustrate colonial types of punishment such as the pillory, stocks, and ducking stool.
- 10. Literature: Read Samuel Sewall's Diary or John Winthrop's Journal for a book report.
- 11. Listen to the CBS radio program, Sundays at 2:30 P.M., called "You Are There". Some programs dramatize the history of your town in colonial times, such as:
 - a. Lexington-Concord-Merriam's Corner (April 19).
 - b. The Hanging of Captain Kidd. (He was supposed to have buried treasure in Ten Hills).
 - c. A Witch Trial in Salem. (This is similar to the trial in Charlestown).
 - d. Sailing of the Pilgrims. (Compare with the Puritan departure).

(Columbia Records, Inc. has recordings of some programs).

12. Listen to "Cavalcade of America", Mondays at 8:00 P.M. There are six hundred scripts available for use by teachers. The following apply to this history:

Number Title

- 5. A Bound Boy in Massachusetts
- 42. Development of Band Music, 1630-1842

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Number	<u>Title</u>
54.	John Winthrop, Pioneer in Chemical Science
88.	The Pine Tree Shilling
171.	Tisquantum
278.	A Tooth for Paul Revere
589.	Oliver Wendell Holmes MacLanahan

13. Selected Motion Pictures

These are available at Boston University School of Public Relations, Division of Motion Pictures and Visual Aids,

84 Exeter Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The standard rental charges are: For sound, black and white films, a reel, \$2.00 a day or \$4.00 a week. Technicolor films rent for \$6.00 a day or \$12.00 a week.

Order Number	Name of Film	Producer
	Colonial Children	Encyclopaedia Britannica
S042	Colonial Expansion	Encyclopaedia Britannica
S4	Declaration of Independence (2) (Technicolor)	Teaching Films Custodian
	Development of Transport- ation	Encyclopaedia Britannica
S041	Early Settlers of New England	Encyclopaedia Britannica
S29	Flag Speaks (The) (2) (Technicolor)	Teaching Films Custodian
S5	Give Me Liberty (2) (Technicolor)	Teaching Films Custodian
S10	Hail Columbia	Teaching Films Custodian
S051	Industrial Revolution	Encyclopaedia Britannica

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Order Number	Name of Film	Producer
831	Land of Liberty (8) Rental \$8.00	Teaching Films Custodian
M45	New England	March of Time
S01 08	Our Bill of Rights (2)	Academic Film Company
S2	Pilgrim Days	Teaching Films Custodian
80102	Preamble (The)	General Pictures Prod.
S7	Sons of Liberty (2) (Technicolor)	Teaching Films Custodian
	Yankee Doodle Goes to Town	Teaching Films Custodian

14. Stamp Collecting: Try to find stamps which have George
Washington's portrait on the values from one cent to a
dollar. Watch for the "300th Anniversary of Printing in
Colonial America, 1639-1939". Old letters may unearth the
three "Lexington-Concord, 1925" stamps which commemorated
the 150th anniversary of the battle. The "Vermont SesquiCentennial Issue of 1927" is important because the Battle of
Bennington led to Burgoyne's capture. The "Burgoyne
Campaign Issue of 1927" recalls the battle which brought
Hessians here. "The Massachusetts Bay Colony Issue of 1930"
commemorated the 300th anniversary of the founding of
Massachusetts Bay Colony. The "Daniel Webster Issue of 1932"
is of interest to us, locally, because of Webster's friendship with Colonel Jaques of Ten Hills.

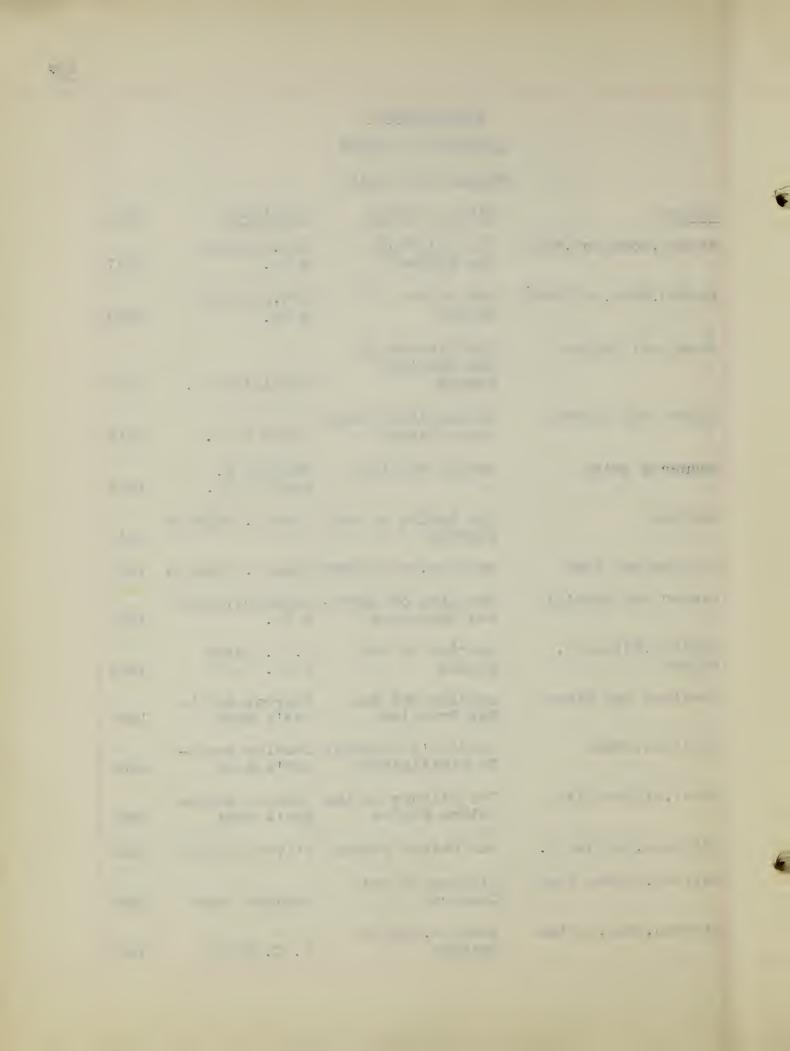
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	Beard and Bagley	The History of the American People	Macmillan Co.	1934
	Bourne and Benton	Introductory American History	Heath & Co.	1912
	Bruner & Smith	Social Studies	Charles E. Merrill Co.	1936
	Burnham	The Making of our Country	John C. Winston	1931
	Burnham and Jack	America, Our Country	John C. Winston	1937
	Casner and Gabriel	The Rise of Ameri- can Democracy	Harcourt, Brace & Co.	1931
	Chadsey, Weinberg, Miller	America in the Making	D. C. Heath & Co.	1939
	Freeland and Adams	America and the New Frontier	Charles Scrib- ner's Sons	1936
	Freeland, Adams	America's Progress in Civilization	Charles Scrib- ner's Sons	1936
	Gordy, Wilbur Fisk	The History of the United States	Charles Scrib- ner's Sons	1922
	Guitteau, William B.	Our United States	Silver Burdett	1919
	Halleck, Reuben Post	History of our Country	American Book	1923
	Hartman, Ball, Nevins	America, Land of Freedom	D. C. Heath	1947



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Knowlton and Harden	Our America, Past and Present	American Book Co.	1938
Lansing, Chase, Nevins	America in the World	D. C. Heath	1949
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Moon	Story of Our Land and People	Henry Holt & Co.	1948
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Rugg, Harold	The Conquest of America	Ginn & Co.	1937
Rugg, Harold	Introduction to American Civili-zation	Ginn & Co.	1929
Sparks, E.E.	The Expansion of the American People	Scott, Foresman & Co.	1900
Tryon, Lingley, Morehouse	The American Natio Yesterday and Toda		1933
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Bennett, John	Barnaby Lee	Appleton	1902
Chapman, H.S.	Story of the American Colonies	Houghton	1930
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Coffin, C.C.	Old Times in the Colonies	Harper	1922
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Dalgliesh, Alice	America Begins	Scribner	1938
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Duvoisin, Roger	And There Was America	Knopf	1938
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Franklin, Benjamin	Autobiography	Rand McNally	1912

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Hart, A.B. & Hazard, Blanche	Colonial Children	Macmillan Co.	1902
Hayes, Marjorie	Wampum & Sixpence	Little	1936
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Knowlton, D. C.	When we were Colonies	American Book Co.	1935
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Coffin, Joseph	Coin Collecting	Coward-McCann	1938
Comer, William R.	Landmarks in the Old Bay State	Norwood Press	1911
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